



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Minister of Community Development: Rev. Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Scripture Reader: Betty McCulloch

April 24, 2022

Holy Humour Sunday

Second Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Our God invites us to be a worshipping people.

We gather in the name of Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Some of us congregate in person while others join in worship using Zoom technology to honor our God.

We unite our spirit as followers of the Holy One. Let us worship with gladness.

Opening Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,

lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Land Acknowledgement

As we begin this time of worship and in light of our current context, let us acknowledge that we are worshipping on the ancestral land of many First Nations peoples. We live, work, play and pray on Treaty 13 lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Candle Lighting

In this time of worship, let the colors of God's love come alive for us.

In worship, we affirm God's nurturing, caring love.

We light this candle symbolizing God's presence among us.

Light candle here

**In worship we proclaim God's empowering love, a love that
calls us to care for all of creation.**

Opening Prayer

Great provider, all of us who travel this earth need your presence among us. You give us life, you give us love.

**You are the wholeness of creation. We are filled with your Spirit
so we sing praises to you, our Creator God.**

Hymn

You Shall Go Out With Joy

VU 884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

As we listen to your story, allow the pain and the joy to enter our souls.

**Be with us today as we receive your words once more that
they may inspire us to share your great love with the world.**

Scripture 1

Psalm 150 NRSV

1 Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!^a

2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

3 Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

Gospel**John 20: 19-31 NRSV**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon**A Time To Laugh****Hymn****Sing Your Joy****VU 253**

Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
song of the earth, and light from heaven:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

All the earth is filled with rejoicing,
light and life, the wonder of God!
Christ has triumphed! Risen forever!
Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

May we learn to become your kingdom,
may we be your kindness and truth!

Love is our calling, gift of your presence;
children of God, and spirit of Jesus:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

Light our way, O God of the living,
may we learn to see with new eyes!
Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;
light for the blind, and food for the hungry:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Life & Work of the Church

Offering

Bolstered by Christ's love, nurturing our souls - we give a portion of what we have to help strengthen our community. Our offerings have been received.

May these offerings entwine us with other communities that we all might grow in love and sharing.

Prayers of the People

Creator and Sustainer of all that is, we offer thanks for all you have given us: the healing, the helping, the coming together of your people in this time of change and challenge ...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I'm Gonna Shout, Shout

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love
for Jesus, for Jesus!
I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love
for God's most holy child!
For whatever I might do today,
at home, at school, at work, at play,
I've got Jesus' love deep down inside of me!

I'm gonna raise, raise, raise up my hands
for Jesus, for Jesus!
I'm gonna raise, raise, raise up my hands
for God's most holy child!
For whatever I might do today,
at home, at school, at work, at play,
I've got Jesus' love deep down inside of me!

I'm gonna dance, dance, dance all around
for Jesus, for Jesus!
I'm gonna dance, dance, dance all around
for God's most holy child!
For whatever I might do today,
at home, at school, at work, at play,
I've got Jesus' love deep down inside of me!

Benediction & Commissioning

**Go forth in the footsteps of the disciples. Using our knowledge to bring hope to all we meet.
We honor God in all our words and actions.**

Go from this place knowing you leave with God's love, Christ's peace and the Spirit to guide you. Amen.

Postlude

* Permission to podcast/stream and reproduce the music and lyrics
obtained from ONE LICENSE with license A-737645.
All rights reserved.



**Additional Lectionary Readings
Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Year C –2nd Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 24, 2022**

Psalm 150

New Revised Standard Version

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!^[a]

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that breathes

Acts 5:27-32

New Revised Standard Version

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,^[a] yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.^[b] ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.