



**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

**Reader:** Tricia Reid

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

Jesus the Christ has called us to this place.

**Jesus Christ, the Bread of life ... the true vine ...**

By God’s love we are called.

**By God’s peace we are uplifted.**

By God’s Spirit we are challenged to be disciples...

**With all that we have and are – let us worship God!**

**Introit**

**I Am a Child of God**

**MV 157**

I am a child of God,  
I am a glimpse of God’s new creation.  
I am a child of God,  
I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer,  
I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer,  
I am an endless prayer.

I am a cry for peace,  
I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace,  
I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy,  
I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy,  
I am a song of joy.

## Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which we gather. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



## Candle Lighting

We are thankful for this autumn season of abundance bestowed upon us. This candle reminds us that we must take our light out into the world that all might experience God's love, peace and justice.

*Light candle here*

**We feel God's presence and know we are not alone.**

## Opening Prayer

Loving God, you call us to faithfulness not to perfection.

**You call us to be open to one another, to share in your happiness, to help those who feel lost or alone and help guide them back to you. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

### Eternal Source of Every Joy

1 Eternal Source of every joy,  
Well may your praise our lips employ,  
While in your temple we appear,  
Whose goodness crowns the circling year.

2 The flowery spring at your command  
Embalms the air and paints the land;  
The summer rays with vigour shine,  
To raise the corn, and cheer the vine.

3 Your hand in autumn richly pours  
Through all our coasts abundant stores,  
And winters, softened by your care,  
No more their barren aspect, wear.

4 The seasons, months and weeks and days  
Demand successive songs of praise;  
Still be the cheerful homage paid  
With opening light and evening shade.

5 To you by every right belongs  
The sweetest note in all our songs,  
But also what must please you more:  
Our lives to serve, our hearts adore.

## **Life and Work of the Church**

### **Scripture Reading Psalm 65**

Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty

<sup>1</sup> Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed,  
<sup>2</sup> O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.  
<sup>3</sup> When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.  
<sup>4</sup> Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your holy temple.  
<sup>5</sup> By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
<sup>6</sup> By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.  
<sup>7</sup> You silence the roaring of the seas, the tumult of the peoples.  
<sup>8</sup> Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;  
<sup>10</sup> You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, and blessing its growth.  
<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
<sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy;  
<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain;  
they shout and sing together for joy.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:  
<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.  
<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.  
<sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'  
<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'  
<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

**Sermon**      Our Most Common Sin

**Hymn**    **Each Blade of Grass**    **MV 37**

1 Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,  
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,  
    make full the circle of God.  
    Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,  
    a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,  
    make full the circle of God.

2 Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,  
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,  
    make full the circle of God.  
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,  
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,  
    make full the circle of God.

3 Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,  
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,  
    make full the circle of God.  
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,  
all form the beauty of this vast array,  
    making full the circle of God.

### **Offering**

God's gifts are all around us and live within us.

**We respond in faith, love and generosity.**

May our offerings be used for those who come to us in need.

### **Prayers of the People**

Replenishing God of our Fall season, nurture us as you nurture creation throughout the changing seasons.

**Transform us as you transform the beauty and wonder of our world. As leaves fall and cover the earth, we remember how your love covers us, keeping us close to you and shielding us from this world's hurts and rejections ...**

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers.

**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 and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn**

**One More Step Along the World I Go**

**VU 639**

- 1 One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.
- 2 Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.
- 5 You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

## **Benediction & Commissioning**

Friends, let us go out into the blaze of glory that is Fall.

**We fill our souls deeply with autumn colours and shed gleefully what we do not need  
as we lay away stores of spiritual bounty.**

Filled with the Spirit let us go forth in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit sharing our blessing with all whom we meet. Amen.

## **Postlude**

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**  
**Peace Sunday**  
**Year C**  
**Sunday Oct 23, 2022**

**Joel 2:23-32**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>23</sup> O children of Zion, be glad,  
and rejoice in the LORD your God,  
for he has given the early rain<sup>[a]</sup> for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.  
<sup>24</sup> The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army that I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup> You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel  
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

**God's Spirit Poured Out**

<sup>28</sup> <sup>[b]</sup> Then afterward  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

<sup>30</sup> I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of  
the LORD comes. <sup>32</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved, for in

Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

## **Psalms 65**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

### **Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty**

<sup>1</sup> Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion,

and to you shall vows be performed,

<sup>2</sup> O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

<sup>3</sup> When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup> By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.

<sup>6</sup> By your<sup>[a]</sup> strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

<sup>7</sup> You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup> Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

<sup>10</sup> You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

<sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness overflow;  
the hills gird themselves with joy;

<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;



the valleys deck themselves with grain;  
they shout and sing together for joy.

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**                      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**2 Timothy 4:16-18**    **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.