



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

April 17, 2022 - Easter Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

God gives us new life and new hope.

God welcomes us into a new world filled with grace.

Come, let us worship our God!

Opening Hymn:

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

VU 155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
 our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
 who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
 suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!
 unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
 who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
 sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
 our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
 now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
 where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
 praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
 praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
 praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!

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.



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Each new day reminds us of the light that dwells within us – the light God has placed deep within our hearts.

~ light the candle~

We light this candle, remembering that we are made of light and love, remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others and the world. Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer

God of all love,

Thank you for calling us into relationship with one another and with you. Thank you for the joys and responsibilities that grow out of who we are. When we get confused, lost, or frustrated, help us to listen for your voice, guiding us to places of life. Amen.

~Listening ~

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-9

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,

⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Sermon Grave Clothes or Angels Robes?

- Responding -

Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

VU 173

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our God now liveth: death has lost its sting.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.



Offering our Gifts:

We gather that we might share the holy meal. In preparation, we present our gifts – may all we share be graciously received. In the name of the giving Christ, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

We share our Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

~Sacrament of Holy Communion~

When the time was right,
God sent Jesus to be among us.
he laughed with those who laughed,
and mourned with those who mourned.
he healed the sick,
he welcomed the outcast,
he challenged those in power,
And he called us back to Your love.

on the night before he was taken
Jesus sat with his disciples,
and ate with them, in a meal of remembrance.

Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke it,

and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take this –and eat.
My Body. Given for you.
Each time you eat it, remember me.”

then, he took a cup filled with wine,
and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take this –and drink it.
This is my promise - poured out for you and for the world.”

Each time you drink it, remember me.
So we, his disciples,
eat bread and drink wine – and remember.

Communion is shared



Prayer

God, with open hearts, minds, spirit, come and touch us with your blessing that we might truly know your love and your presence is always with us.

Closing Hymn

Christ Is Alive

VU 158

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,

till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Sending forth and Blessing

Whatever the next hours hold, remember that you are blessed, supported, strengthened by God.
Take comfort in God's love that your life may affirm the good news of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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**Additional Lectionary Readings
Year C – Easter
Sunday, April 17, 2022**

Isaiah 65:17-25

New Revised Standard Version

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;^[a]
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Psalms 118:1-2

New Revised Standard Version

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Psalms 118:14-24 **New Revised Standard Version**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]

Acts 10:34-43 **New Revised Standard Version**

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to

all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Luke 24:1-12**New Revised Standard Version**

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ^[a] ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women ^[b] were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men ^[c] said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ^[d] ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. ^[e]