



**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

**Readers:** Betty McCulloch, Shirley Scott, Linda McKay, Michele Threndyle

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Remembrance Day / Communion Sunday**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**I Vow To Thee, My Country**

Gustav Holst

**Call to Worship**

We gather today to remember

**To remember saints, past and present,**

To receive the teachings they have passed down to us

**To offer thanksgiving for their legacy of faith.**

Let us worship the God of all generations.

**Introit**

**Now Thank We All Our God**

**VU 236**

1 Now thank we all our God,  
with heart, and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

3 All praise and thanks to God  
for all that has been given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest  
who dwell in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore

## **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**

When we gather as followers of Jesus, we light a candle to guide us in his way.

*Light candle here*

**In life, in death, God is always with us, as are those who influence our lives, our communities, our world.**

## **Hymn**

### **For All the Saints**

**VU 705**

- 1 For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
all who by faith before the world confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
  
- 2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might:  
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;  
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
  
- 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one within your great design.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
  
- 5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
as God to glory calls them all away.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
  
- 6 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

## **The Gift of Tradition**

It is easy to get religion; it is something else to hold on to it.

Christianity is an intergenerational thing. From the beginning, our challenge has not been to keep the faith, but to pass it on to the next generation... the gift of tradition.

Yet, what is tradition? What is it we believe ... and how do we pass it on....

As a former track and field person, my favourite event was and is the four by four relay because it is a team event.

You can have the fastest sprinters and still lose the race if the baton is dropped or passed poorly.

Thus it is with tradition, it too is a team event and 'tradition' is the baton we pass from generation to generation.

All participants are called Christians with an understanding of our faith passed on by those who have gone before.

Parents ... a friend ... a soldier... a stranger ... to each of them we say thank you, because they ran the race and passed the baton to us ... to you and me and those who serve that we might have peace.

This has been a busy week on the church calendar: All Hallows' Eve ... All Saints Day ... the Feast of All Souls ... a part of our tradition that we have all but lost.

Today, I want to remember ... and I invite you to join with me in the tradition of remembering.

Outside the door of the sanctuary are Soldiers, Brothers & Sisters who have Fallen in service to our Country, seeking admission not in person, but in Spirit. In doing so, they seek to be remembered forever.

*a chair, draped w/black cloth is near a Canadian flag.*

We will guide our thoughts to remember those brave souls who have answered the call to arms during the great wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions of our history.

Those who died in service to their Country, in the advancement of Democracy, Justice and Freedom.

But let's not confine our thoughts to only those of our Canadian fallen,

but to the fallen heroes of our Neighbors, our Friends and Allied countries

who have also made the supreme sacrifice –

not from any selfish aim but from the most basic and fundamental goal of life - that all one Day live as one, in Peace & harmony

We remember

Today we pay highest respect for our Canadian Soldiers who have, in service to our Country, paid the supreme sacrifice of life, that we may live in peace.

***Betty comes forward here -***

1. The Deck of Cards

*places the poppy on the vacant chair*

***Shirley comes forward here -***

2. Upon repeating a commendation for valor, the General reached over to pin the medal upon the soldier's lapel.

The soldier's head followed the motion.

The general sucked in a breath, for briefly the soldier's scar---cutting from his brow down through both eyes and raking away the bridge of his nose---had given the impression that, though completely blind, he watched the decoration being attached. It was an illusion.

Afterward, the General made an opportunity to address his Staff.

"Never again," he stated. "I mustn't be shown any more spectacles..." Pausing, he rubbed his brow, sighing as fingers ran upon the smooth flesh which stretched there. "I fear I would no longer have the courage to give the order to attack."

*places the poppy on the vacant chair*

*Linda comes forward here -*

3. His name is James. He is 27 years old. He sees himself as a coward ... 18 months ago he was serving as a helicopter pilot ... he was shot down ... he was injured and the only survivor ... he was sent home to get better ... now he dreads being called back into active service ...

*places the poppy on the vacant chair*

*Michele comes forward here -*

4. He's older now ... but he still remembers ... he tells the same story over and over again ... it was worth it ... I love this country ... I was away for four years ... it was hard ... so much blood ... death ... broken men ... then it was over and we were going home ... sitting in the belly of a plane, dirty ... clothes disheveled ... spirits down ... we lost so many ...

Our plane landed and as we got off we heard the people cheering ... calling out welcome ... we were their hero ... they cared ... suddenly everything mattered ... we were home ...

We stood straighter, taller, we tucked in our shirts, buttoned our jacket, marched proud of who we were ... I remember ... they gave us back a reason to live!

*places the poppy on the vacant chair*

**Reading**

**Just A Common Soldier**

**Last Post**

**Flanders Field Poem**

**Moment of Silence**

**Rouse**

They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old. Age will not weary them, not the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning light, we shall remember them."

**Offering**

Remembering the sacrifice of others, may our offering bring new life to all in need. Amen.

## Communion

### Invitation

Sharing bread and juice in communion reminds us of the forgiveness, love, and hope we experience through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All who have gone before and the Holy Spirit join us at this table:

Through communion we are made new.

The bread of new life – eat and be filled!

Through God's Spirit, we are empowered:

Drink and be renewed!

Thank you, God, for the gifts of such abundance

### Prayers of the People

In this time and place as we remember ...

Moment of silent 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 and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Psalm 90

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

2 under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

5 Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

### **Benediction & Commissioning**

It is time to go forward as God's people.

**We have heard the good news proclaimed  
and we are sustained to live faithfully as we  
are attuned to the power of the Holy Spirit.**

May the God of justice guide you in the path of peace.

May Christ reveal to you the way of new life.

May the Holy Spirit awaken the desire in you to work

For harmony. Amen.

### **Postlude**

### **Be Still My Soul**

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church  
Remembrance Sunday  
Year C  
Sunday Nov 6, 2022**

**Haggai 1:15**                      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month.

**The Future Glory of the Temple**

In the second year of King Darius,

**Haggai 2:9**                      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>9</sup> The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.”

**Psalms 145:1-5**                      **New Revised Standard Version**

**The Greatness and the Goodness of God**

**Praise. Of David.**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall extol your works to another  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> They will recount the glorious<sup>[a]</sup> splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.



**Psalm 98**

**New Revised Standard Version**

**Praise the Judge of the World**

**A Psalm.**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**Psalm 17:1-9**

**New Revised Standard Version**

**Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors**

**A Prayer of David.**

<sup>1</sup> Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;  
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

<sup>2</sup> From you let my vindication come;  
let your eyes see the right.

<sup>3</sup> If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,  
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;

my mouth does not transgress.

<sup>4</sup> As for what others do, by the word of your lips  
I have avoided the ways of the violent.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.

<sup>6</sup> I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.

<sup>7</sup> Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.

<sup>8</sup> Guard me as the apple of the eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings,

<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who despoil me,  
my deadly enemies who surround me.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

### **The Man of Lawlessness**

<sup>2</sup> As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one<sup>[a]</sup> is revealed, the one destined for destruction.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

## **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

### **Chosen for Salvation**

<sup>13</sup> But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits<sup>[a]</sup> for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

**The Question about the Resurrection**

<sup>27</sup> Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him <sup>28</sup> and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man<sup>[a]</sup> shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. <sup>29</sup> Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; <sup>30</sup> then the second<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>31</sup> and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. <sup>32</sup> Finally the woman also died. <sup>33</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, <sup>35</sup> but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. <sup>36</sup> Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. <sup>37</sup> And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. <sup>38</sup> Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”