



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

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Reader: Mary Cannings

September 22nd, 2024

18th Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that the light of Christ is always with us.

May this light guide our steps to new life.

The candle is lit.

Amen.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. The land we are worshipping on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

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.

Opening Hymn

O Jesus, Let Me Walk With Thee

VU 560

1 O Jesus, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move

with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou can give,
with thee, O Jesus, let me live.

Call to Worship

Happy are those who follow the ways of the Creator,

God's ways are just and merciful.

Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

We pass the peace (*with a bow, or a wave, or a nod to our neighbours*) to remind us of the light of Christ that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

Let us greet those around you with the Peace of Christ, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

We draw near to you, O God,

Source of all understanding,

and ask you to draw near to us.

Teach us your wisdom from above,

that we may bear good fruit in our lives.

Root us beside the streams of your wisdom,

that the green leaves of our goodness,

fed by your insight,

may not wither.

Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 1

Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness,
who stand beside virtue,
who sit in the seat of truth;

**For their delight is in the Spirit of Love,
and in Love's heart they dwell day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
that yield fruit in due season.

**Their leaves flourish;
and in all that they do, they give life.**

The unloving are not so;

**they are like dandelions
which the wind blows away.**

Turning from the Heart of Love
they will know suffering and pain.

They will be isolated from wisdom;
**for Love knows the way of truth,
the way of ignorance will perish.**

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Sermon

Getting the Question Right

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

Jesus, Hold My Hand

1 As I travel through this pilgrim land
There is a friend who walks with me
Leads me safely through the sinking sand
It is the Christ of Calvary
This would be my prayer, dear God, each day
You help me do the best I can
For I need Thy light to guide me day and night
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Jesus, hold my hand
For I need Thee every hour
Through this pilgrim land
Protect me by Thy power
Hear my feeble plea
O Lord, look down on me
When I kneel in prayer
I hope to meet You there
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

2 Let me travel in the light divine
That I may see the blessed way
Keep me that I may be wholly Thine
And sing "Redemption's Song" some day
I will be a soldier brave and true
And ever firmly take a stand
As I onward go and daily meet the foe
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Jesus, hold my hand
'Cause I need Thee every hour
Through this pilgrim land
Protect me by Thy power
Hear my feeble plea
And O Lord, look down on me
When I kneel in prayer
I hope to meet You there
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

3 When I wander through the valley dim
Toward the setting of the sun,
Lead me safely to a land of rest
If I a crown of life have won;
I have put my faith in Thee, dear God,
That I may reach the golden strand,
There's no other friend on whom I can depend,
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Jesus, hold my hand
'Cause I need Thee every hour
Through this pilgrim land
Protect me by Thy power
Hear my feeble plea

And O Lord, look down on me
When I kneel in prayer
I hope to meet You there
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand
When I kneel in prayer
I hope to meet You there
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Offering

**You are the generous one,
full of mercy
and goodness for your creation.
Send your wisdom with these gifts,
that they may reach those
who need your love and welcome.
Bring about a harvest of goodness
through these gifts sown in peace.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

We pray all this, using the ancient words you taught us, saying:

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kindom 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory forever 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.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
 keep me travelling along with you.

Bread for the Journey

How can I serve others today?

Commissioning and Benediction

We are planted by the streams of God's wisdom.

**We meditate on the desires of God,
taking delight in the laws of God.**

Sink your roots deep into the soil,
and draw on God's wisdom.

For God will nourish us every day with insight.

Go forth, knowing that God watches over you.

Go now into the world, with a daring and a tender heart -

go in peace, the world is waiting.
And whatever you do, do it for love,
remembering that you follow Jesus.
And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and ever.
Amen.

Choral Response

Let There be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator
Family all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

Postlude

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