



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

**Minister of Word & Sacrament:** Katie Vardy

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Musical Guest:** Loralie Vancourt

**Reader:** Beth Moore

**September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**HARVEST TIME MUSIC SUNDAY**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**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**

**Gather Us In**

1 Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings

Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

3 Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven, light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

### **Call to Worship**

The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**Let our joy be complete!**

Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**Love one another!**

Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

**No longer servants but friends!**

Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,  
**Rejoicing in the friendship of Creator.**  
**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 of the Church**

#### **Hymn**

#### **Come, You Thankful People, Come**

**VU 516**

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!
- 2 All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,

free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

### Opening Prayer

**Touch us, Creator, through the ministry of melody,  
through the sounds and senses of songs,  
through the wordless wonder which fills our souls with heaven,  
through the Spirit which teaches our feet to dance  
and causes our hearts to overflow,  
that we might be absorbed in the mystery and magic of music,  
and that, in the moment of oneness,  
our lives will be bonded to each other and to you.  
Amen.**

### RECEIVING CREATOR'S WORD

#### Scripture Psalm 96

O sing to the Cosmos a new song;  
sing to the Beloved, all the earth!

**Sing to the Creator, and bless the Name above all names;  
sing praises to the Glorious One from day to day.**

Declare the splendor of the Radiant One to all nations,  
**the marvelous works of Love to all peoples!**

For great is the Beloved, and greatly to be praised;  
**reverence Love about all else.**

For where your thoughts are,  
reveals that which you treasure;  
seek only the true Treasure.

**Truth and integrity live with Love;  
strength and beauty dwell with the Beloved.**

Yield to Love, O families of the earth,  
yield to Love glory and strength!

**Yield to Love and learn of justice;  
make of yourselves an offering and be guided by Love!**

Bow down in adoration and holiness;

**for worthy is the Beloved to be praised in all the earth!**

The Creator of the Cosmos reigns!

**Yes, the world has been created,  
gift to all generations;  
let truth and justice give birth to peace and harmony!**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the seas roar, and all that fills them;

**let the fields exult, and everything in them!**

Then shall the trees of the wood  
sing for joy before the coming of the Beloved,  
who reigns in glory!

**For through Love will come truth and justice,  
offering all the people gifts  
of new Life.**

**Luke 12:16-30                      The Parable of the Rich Fool**

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

<sup>22</sup> He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup> For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and Creator knows that you need them.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Give Thanks, My Soul, For Harvest**

**VU 522**

1 Give thanks, my soul, for harvest,  
for store of fruit and grain;  
but know the owner gives so  
that we may share again.

Where people suffer hunger,  
or little children cry,  
with gifts from God's rich bounty  
may thankfulness reply.

2 Give thanks, my soul, for riches  
of woodland, mine, and hill;  
but know that gold and timber  
are the Creator's still.  
God lends to us, as stewards,  
abundance we might share,  
and thus provide earth's children  
the blessing of God's care.

3 Give thanks, my soul, for labours,  
that strength and days employ;  
but know the Maker's purpose  
brings toil as well as joy.  
Show forth, O God, your purpose;  
direct our will and hand  
to share your love and bounty  
with all in every land.

**Musical Guest**

Loralie Vancourt

**Reflection**

### **RESPONDING TO CREATOR'S WORD**

**Song**

#### **We Gather Together**

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:  
the Lord was at our side - all glory be Thine!

3 We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

## Offering

Ever-present Creator,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:

**all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
and all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept us and our offering this morning. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

We thank you, Creator, that we have lived  
in this great world and known its many joys.

For all of life, **we give you thanks.**

Remembering the song of birds,  
the strong, sweet scent of hay,  
and cooling breezes in the secret dusk,  
the flaming sunset at the close of day.

For all of life, **we give you thanks.**

Remembering the lonely hills,  
music at night and moonlight on the sea,  
the beat of waves on the rocky shore,  
and wild, white spray flung high.

For all of life, **we give you thanks.**

Remembering the love of kin and the support of friends,  
and all that makes life dear and beautiful;  
remembering that there has come  
a little sorrow, and sometimes defeat,  
a little heartache, and the loneliness  
that comes with parting, and the word "goodbye."

For all of life, **we give you thanks.**

Remembering the breaking dawn after dreary hours of pain,  
the discovery that night's gloom yields,  
and morning light breaks through again.

We name silently in our hearts  
the people and places that weigh on us this day.

For all of life, **we give you thanks.**

Because of these and other blessings  
poured unasked upon our heads;  
because there waits an even richer

and more glorious life;  
and most of all, because your only Son  
once sacrificed life's loveliness for us,  
we thank you, Creator, that we have lived  
in this great world and know its many joys.

For all of life, **we give you thanks. Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**Creator, in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your dominion come, your will be done  
on earth, as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is eternity,  
the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

### **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

#### **Closing Hymn**

#### **Grateful**

**MV 182**

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for the Holy One,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

1 You are more than we imagine,  
Ancient, Holy, Living God.  
Even when we doubt your presence  
you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for the Holy One,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,



we will praise you.

2 May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name.

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for the Holy One,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

### **Bread for the Journey**

How can music transform your relationship with Creator?

### **Benediction & Commissioning**

Here, we have danced with the Spirit,  
**danced and sung each in our own way.**

Here, we have twined our spirits with the great Love of All Creation.  
**Here, we have prayed for peace and justice in the world,  
and our own peace.**

Now, we go forth,  
**renewed through this time of community, song, and worship.  
We go, reminded of Creator's song. Amen.**

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

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