



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: Kayin Paul, Tricia Reid, Betty McCulloch

February 6, 2022 – Season of Epiphany

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Far From All Care

Music: D. A. R. Aufranc

Call to Worship

God's people have gathered for worship.

and God is with us.

Strangers and friends, familiar and new,

yet one in God's love.

Feeling lost and hopeless, feeling found and thankful,

we come in gratitude and hope.

Come, let us worship our God!

Response

Open My Eyes

VU 371

Words & Music: Clara H. Scott

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement



Candle Lighting

The candle is lit as a reminder of the light of Christ

Given to us all,

A symbol of God's presence

Each and every day.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your life.

And also in yours.

Opening Hymn

Called By Earth and Sky

MV 135

Words & Music: © 2005 Pat Mayberry

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,

our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our waking, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Opening Prayer

*Hear us O God of past, present, and future,
who calls us forth to worship. We, your people, members of your body, have gathered
in this special place, in answer to your call to worship. Be with us as we open ourselves
to the gift of your presence, we pray. Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

*God of the ages, we come because you have called our name. shine your light on us with the gift of your word. Set our feet on the right path that leads to you.
Amen*

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Isaiah's Commission

New Revised Standard Version

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:
“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”
⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”
⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”
⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,^[a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”
⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”
⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Sh-h-h, m-m-m, ah!

Hymn

Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

VU 563

Words, Music: © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin

Translation: Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón
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Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labour.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



There is much to give thanks for and part of what we do when we take stock of this is to consider who we can give back in gratitude.

Our time, our talents, the work of our hands, each piece works to change the world around us. There are many ways for you to give, please visit our website www.bbuc.ca/donate to learn how you can support the work of this place in this community.

Prayers of the People

God.

What are we to make of you, you who are beyond our imagination, and as close as our very next breath?

Who are we, to be loved by the likes of you?

Even the hard-hearted and self-assured, you love.

Even when we walk in the midst of trouble,

even as our enemies of self-doubt, judgment, and despair haunt our trail,

you preserve us. You stretch out your hand with grace and mercy,

lifting us up, renewing our spirit, reminding us that we were created with the purpose of your love and justice.

When we are confronted with loss—we call, and you are with us.

When we need a community to belong to—we call, and you are with us.

When we are sure we have come to the end of our limit—we call, and you are with us,

not always in how we imagine or would conceive,

but always born in the still, small presence at the root of our being,

who is louder than all the thunder under heaven.

So we will give you thanks, God of Holy Mystery.

We will praise you with our whole heart song,

for you alone are worthy of this.

All life is the work of your hands,

and this, you will not forsake.

May we reach out and embrace the stranger, feed the hungry, help the poor,

and in so doing, realize the wonder of who you made us to be.

May we give thanks in the labour for which we have been called—

that together, we would create a world and a people

who know the value of your heedless love

that will never submit to any limit anyone could ever place upon you.

And so together we pray the words that Jesus taught us...



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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

May the God of Hope Go with Us

VU 424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Benediction & Commissioning

We entered worship, aware of the light of God that shines through the life of Jesus Christ.

And now we depart, carrying that light of truth into the world, to share and to inspire.

Go out as seekers after truth, as bearers of light, as tellers of good news: you are loved, you are blessed, you are free.

Additional Lectionary Readings

Psalm 138 (VU p. 860)

Do not forsake the work of your hands, O God.

I praise you, O God, with all my heart;
before the gods I will sing your praises.

I bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your name for your love and faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.

On the day that I called, you answered me,
and put new strength in my soul. R

All earth's rulers shall praise you,
when they hear the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of your ways, O God,
sing that your glory is great.

For though you are high, you care for the lowly.
As for the proud, you humble them from afar. R

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me;
you stretch out your hand against my enemies' rage;
your powerful hand delivers me.

You will fulfill your purpose for me.
Your love, O God, is eternal.
Do not leave unfinished the work of your hands. R

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

An account of Jesus' resurrection.

15 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters,^[a] of the good news^[b] that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters^[c] at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.^[d] ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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