



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Musical Guest: Doug MacNaughton

Reader: Beth Moore

June 23, 2024 - Fifth After Pentecost

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL MUSIC SUNDAY

PRIDE MONTH / INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we gather here this morning, let us remember that all are welcome in this place. May the light that shines from these flames illuminate our path ahead, and help us to flourish together in love, peace and unity.

May this flame focus our commitment to welcome all people as they are, with all they bring. May this flame invite each of us to shine in the world reflecting the offer of community and relationship in this place.

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. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

VU 291

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,

the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

2 The rich man in his castle
The poor man at his gate,
God made them, high and lowly,
And ordered their estate.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

3 The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

4 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

5 The tall trees in the green wood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
We gather every day;

6 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Life and Work of the Church

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

VU 409

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Scripture Psalm 9:9-20

- ⁹ For the Eternal will be a shelter for those who know misery,
a refuge during troubling times.
- ¹⁰ Those who know Your name will rely on You,
for You, O Eternal One, have not abandoned those who search for You.
- ¹¹ Praise the One who lives on Zion's holy hill.
Tell the story of God's great acts among the people!
- ¹² For God remembers the victims of violence;
And does not turn a deaf ear to the cry of the needy.
- ¹³ Be gracious to me, O Eternal One.
You who carry me safely away from death's door,
- ¹⁴ So that I may rehearse Your deeds, declare Your praise,
and rejoice in Your rescue
when I take my stand in the gates of Zion.
- ¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they dug for others,
their own feet caught, snared by the net they hid.
- ¹⁶ The Eternal is well known, for You have taken action and secured justice;
And have trapped the wicked through the work of their own hands.
- ¹⁸ For those in need shall not be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor will never die.
- ¹⁹ Eternal One, arise! Do not allow mere mortals to win the day.
Let the nations come to You and be judged.
- ²⁰ Remind the nations they are mere humans, not gods.

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” ³⁶ So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). ³⁷ But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

³⁸ Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

My Love Colours Outside the Lines

MV 138

1 My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I’ve never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2 My God colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I’ve never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We’ll never walk on water
if we’re not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking
from time to time.
And we’ll never move the grave-stones
if we’re not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

3 My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine
I want to walk beyond the boundaries

where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking
from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave-stones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

4 My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Musical Guest

Doug MacNaughton

Reflection

Hymn

For The Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,

graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Offering

At this time of Offering let us remember the many gifts we all enjoy, and consider ways that we may give back, as we are able, to help support the work of this church in our community.

Prayers of the People

Oh, Love that will not let us go...

Our hearts are filled to overflowing with joy, deep love, and gratitude.

We are thankful for the gifts of all Affirming Ministries and communities of faith who open their churches, their homes and their hearts for music, friendship, and for family.

We are thankful most of all, for the blessing of a Love that is, and always has been, there for us. The truth at the heart of our faith – that you are Love - echoes today in words and in music, in friendships and family, in our hearts and minds, and continues to challenge us to Love.

We pray for our hearts and minds to be open to recognize our own homophobia, our own racism, sexism, and all the ways we fear those who are different from us.

We pray we learn how to recognize the kinship between our souls and the souls of those who, to us, are strangers. We pray that we will never cease in our journey to learn how to Love more radically.

We pray in the name of the Love that heals those judged by religious leaders and powers, the Love that lives and loves among the marginalized and outcast.

The Love that will not let us go.

We now take a moment to remember those who we keep in our prayers today... *(pause)*

**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

Lord of the Dance (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)

VU 352

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Benediction & Commissioning

**And now may goodness and mercy be our source, our guide, and our destination as we continue our journey. Let us go forward, sharing that love with humility, joy, and good humour, knowing that you are loved, gathered in, and honoured.
Amen.**

Choral Response

Oh, Happy Day

Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
When Jesus washed,
Oh, when he washed,
When Jesus washed,
He washed my sins away!
Oh happy day,

Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
When Jesus washed,
Oh, when he washed,
When Jesus washed,
He washed my sins away!
Oh happy day.

He taught me how to watch,
fight and pray,
Fight and pray,
And live rejoicing every day,
Every day!

Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
When Jesus washed,
Oh, when he washed,
When Jesus washed,
He washed my sins away!
Oh happy day.

He taught me how to watch,
fight and pray,
Fight and pray,
And live rejoicing every day,
Every day!

Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
When Jesus washed,
Oh, when he washed,
When Jesus washed,
He washed my sins away!
Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
Oh happy day!

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