



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

Reader: Michele Threndyle

August 11, 2024

12th Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

Music: John Bacchus Dykes

Lighting the Christ Candle

God gives us strength to approach each new day and trusts us to live that day as a gift from God.

The candle is lit.

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.

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Call to Worship

Let us worship our Creator, the God of love who continually preserves and sustains us.
We have been forgiven with an all-embracing acceptance. Through Christ we have received the
full love of God.

Opening Prayer

O God of all places, you are present within this place, our lives and our hearts. Be with us when
we cling to things as if they are more important than that which you give. Help us to live in
peace with all. In Christ's name we ask it, **Amen.**

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 36:5-9

Your steadfast love, LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements, like the great deep.

You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.

⁷How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house;

you give them drink from your river of delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

Luke 21:1-4 The Widow's Offering

21 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Take My Life, and Let It Be

VU 506

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of your love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Sermon

A Penny's Worth of Thanks

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU 664

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Offering

Help us, Lord, to believe that your presence makes our gifts worthy, and our lives a living sacrifice to you. Accept our gifts that we may continue to help those who come to us in need.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Each day, O God, we are challenged to obey in a way that is deeper and more profound than yesterday. Give us the strength we need to approach our days on earth and trust us to live each day as a gift from you...

Moment of silence

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive 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,
Now and forever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

There's a Spirit in the Air

VU 582

1 There's a spirit in the air,

telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.'

2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

5 When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world

Commissioning and Benediction

Let us go forth in thanksgiving remembering that all good gifts come from God. Go in peace and bear witness to God's love for all. **Amen.**

Choral Benediction

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

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