



**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:** Shirley Scott

**June 16, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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. 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**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**VU 288**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

### **Call to Worship**

Whenever we feel overlooked or let down by others...

**Resting and praying , we affirm that God knows us and loves us.**

When we feel lost or unsure...

**We remember that God leads us.**

May God surprise us as we worship together this morning.

### **Life and Work**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Creator of us all, may our hearts give in to loving and peaceable ways that we are never less than you created us to be.

**Remind us that respect is a right for all. May we live and work honouring others as we expect them to honour us. Bring us together in love as we call on your name.**

**Amen.**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Psalm 20**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!

The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

**<sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary  
and give you support from Zion.**

<sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings  
and regard with favor your burnt offerings.

**<sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire  
and fulfill all your plans.**

<sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your victory  
and in the name of our God set up our banners.

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

**<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.**

<sup>7</sup> Some take pride in chariots and some in horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.

**<sup>8</sup> They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.**

<sup>9</sup> Give victory to the king, O LORD;  
answer us when we call.

#### **Mark 4:26-34**

#### The Parable of the Growing Seed

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come. <sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. <sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Hymn**

#### **Mansion Over the Hilltop**

1 I'm satisfied with just a cottage below,  
a little silver and a little gold,  
But in that city where the ransomed will shine,  
I want a gold one that's silver lined.

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old  
And someday yonder, we will never more wander  
But walk on streets that are purest gold

2 Though often tempted, tormented and tested,  
and like the prophet, my pillow's a stone,  
And though I find here, no permanent dwelling  
I know He'll give me a mansion my own.

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old  
And someday yonder, we will never more wander  
But walk on streets that are purest gold

3 Don't think me poor or deserted or lonely,  
I'm not discouraged; I'm Heaven bound,  
I'm just a pilgrim in search of a city,  
I want a mansion, a robe and a crown

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old  
And someday yonder, we will never more wander  
But walk on streets that are purest gold  
We'll walk on streets that are purest gold

**Sermon**

**Little Things Mean A lot**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**

**Because He Lives**

God sent His son, they called him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He bled and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he brings;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

### **Offering**

As we seek to enable others, motivate us to get involved in making their world a better place.

**May we be committed to seek justice for all.**

Accept our offerings as our beginnings of a new way to live together.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

As a beloved and faithful people of God's church, we belong to a tradition based on forgiveness and compassion.

**May God's Spirit continue to breathe life and hope as we learn to live our faith planting seeds for future generations ...**

*Moment of silence*

**Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy 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 yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

### Closing Hymn

### Shine, Jesus, Shine

God, the light of your love is shining.  
In the midst of the darkness shining.  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us.  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me; Shine on me,

Shine, Jesus shine,  
Fill this land with your radiant glory,  
Blaze, spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, God  
and let there be light.

God, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance,  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me; Shine on me,

Shine, Jesus shine,  
Fill this land with your radiant glory,  
Blaze, spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, God  
and let there be light.

As we gaze on Your holy brightness  
So our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from Glory to Glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me; Shine on me,

Shine, Jesus shine,  
Fill this land with your radiant glory,  
Blaze, spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow,

Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, God  
and let there be light.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

May the God of peace continue to walk with you...

**May the light of Christ shine on our path as we walk in the light of God.**

**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!

### **Postlude**

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