



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

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

**The Rev. Gregory Daly:** revgregbbuc@rogers.com

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Dramatic Reading:** Shirley Scott

**June 14, 2020 – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

In the midst of the world’s chaos

*come to this place and find peace.*

When your mind is overwhelmed with what you see

*come to this place and find hope.*

If your heart is heavy, with fear, with worry, with sorrow,

*come to this place and find strength.*

As you long for community in a world that is torn apart,

*come to this place and find grace.*

Come people of God, and in this place, in this moment,

*find peace, hope, strength and grace, as we worship and pray together.*

**Response**

**Just As I Am (v. 1 & 4)**

**VU 508**

Words: Charlotte Elliott

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury

Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
and that you bid me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be yours, yes, yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship*



## Land Acknowledgement



As we prepare for worship, we 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 territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



## Candle Lighting

### Opening Hymn

### **O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts (v. 1, 2, 4)**

**VU 472**

Words: 12th Century, translated by Ray Palmer.

Music: Henry Percy Smith.

- 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,  
the fount of life, the light of all  
from every bliss that earth imparts  
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
- 2 Your truth unchanged has ever stood;  
you plead with all to call on you,  
to those who seek you, you are good,  
to those who find you, life is new.
- 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay;  
make all our moments calm and bright;  
chase the bleak night of sin away;  
shed o'er the world your holy light.

## Prayer for Grace

*Loving God,  
in Jesus you offer life to the world  
and love to all people.*

*When we see life only for ourselves,  
forgive us.  
Help us to hear your transforming love  
speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,  
telling us that we are loved  
and that we are to love one another.  
In the knowledge of this love  
work through us to bring your justice to the world,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

**And Now for Something Completely Different**  
**A monologue by Sarah**

**Hymn**

**To Abraham and Sarah**

**VU 634**

Words: © 1984 Judith A. Fetter

Music: Basil Harwood

- 1      To Abraham and Sarah  
         the call of God was clear,  
         'Go forth and I will show you  
         a country rich and fair.  
         You need not fear the journey  
         for I have pledged my word,  
         that you shall be my people  
         and I will be your God.'
- 2      From Abraham and Sarah  
         arose a pilgrim race,  
         dependent for their journey  
         on God's abundant grace;  
         and in their heart was written  
         by God this saving word:  
         'that you shall be my people  
         and I will be your God.'
- 3      We of this generation  
         on whom God's hand is laid,  
         can journey to the future  
         secure and unafraid,  
         rejoicing in God's goodness  
         and trusting in this word:  
         'that you shall be my people  
         and I will be your God.'

## Prayer of Illumination

*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.*

*May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.*

*Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen*

## Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

A paraphrase by Calvin Seerveld in *Voicing God's Psalms*.

I love God because God hears me when I cry and pray,  
Yes, God bent God's ear down to me,  
and I'll talk about it the rest of my life!

I was caught in a dead end.  
The cramp of the grave had a hold on me;  
pain and trouble kept hurting.  
So I called out loud on God's name:  
God, please! Get me out—save my life!

Full of mercy is the Lord God, just—yes—  
but our God spills compassion over!

God takes loving care of those open to temptation—  
when I was cut down to size, God took care of me—  
so calm down people, God has given you what was good!

That's so.  
You got me out of the dead end.  
You have stopped my eyes from filling with tears!  
You have kept me from walking into ruin—Yes!

What shall I give God?  
So many lovely surprises God has given me.  
I know, I shall toast God with the cup of victory—  
Cheers for God!  
I will do what I vowed to God I would too,  
and I'll do it right among God's people.

Yes, I will really offer thanksgiving to you:  
Cheers for God!  
I mean it, I will do what I vowed to God,  
and I'll do it among the faithful,  
near the house of God,  
right in the middle of Jerusalem—  
Glory, Hallelujah!

## Hymn

## For the Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

Music: Conrad Kocher

- 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, R
- 3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R

## Romans 5: 1-8

## New Revised Standard Version

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

The word of God for the People of God

*Thanks be to God*

## Sermon

## I Hope



## Hymn

### It Is Well With My Soul

Words by Horatio Spafford / Music by Philip Bliss

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though troubles should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul

O God, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and my God shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul

It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering our Gifts to God

God has abundantly bestowed upon us the gift of life.  
Our best response is to offer our whole lives  
as agents for God's mission in the world.  
Give as you are able to build the community of God  
in our homes, our congregation and around the world.



### Prayers of the People (based on Romans 5)



*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

### One More Step Along the World I Go (v. 1, 2, 3, 4) VU 639

Words and Music: Sydney Carter  
© 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

- 1 One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.
- 2 Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me: R
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know: R
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you: R

## **Benediction & Commissioning**



## **Postlude**

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## **Other Resources for Today**

### **Additional Lectionary Readings**

#### **Genesis 18: 1-15      New Revised Standard Version**

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures<sup>[e]</sup> of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

#### **Matthew 9:35 – 10:8      New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask God of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.