



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Rev. Carmen Llanos: Minister of Community Development

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Amanda Hynes-Bower

May 30, 2021 – Trinity Sunday



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship *(courtesy Moderator Richard Bott)*

In the holy name of God:
Father, Mother, Creator, Life-Giver...

we gather in this place.

In the holy name of Jesus the Christ:
Son, Redeemer, Teacher, Friend...

we gather in this place.

In the holy name of the Spirit:
Holy One, Sustainer, Daily Guide, Wisdom...

we gather in this place.

In the holy name of the One who is Three
and the Three who are One...

we gather to celebrate new life.

Response

Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

Words: Katherine K. Davis © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
Music: Welsh folk melody

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.*

*By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise*

Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship. Whoever you are, however you identify,
wherever you come from, you are welcome here.*



Land Acknowledgement

The “Dish” or sometimes it is called the “Bowl” represents what we now call southern Ontario (the area that is contained around Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario). The meaning derives from the understanding that we all eat out of the Dish – all of us that share this territory – with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty; which includes, taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace.



As we prepare for worship we take a moment to acknowledge this sacred land 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 Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog. These lands are subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum belt treaty and today, the meeting place of 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. It is now our time to share in the care and maintenance of the land. Part of that discussion is the work of reconciliation and 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 God Beyond All Praising

Words: Michael Perry © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Gustav Theodor Holst

VU 256

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty God.*

*The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.*

*Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Prayer for Grace

*Spirit of all that lives, fall afresh on us, melt us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the God of life, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
And when we are not these things, and when we are not together, disturb us:
send your messengers to remind us of your ways.
Forgive us for our lack of unity.
Forgive us our pride, our lack of care, our selfishness, our attachment to possessions.
Spirit of the living God, Spirit promised by Jesus:
fill our lives with love. Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Hymn

I Bind Unto Myself Today

Words: attributed to St. Patrick
English Words: Cecil Frances Alexander
Music: ancient Irish hymn melody

VU 317

*I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the three in one and one in three.*

*I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's lifegiving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea,
around the old eternal rocks.*

*I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
the eye to watch, the might to stay,
the ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
the hand to guide, the shield to ward,
the Word of God to give me speech,
the heavenly host to be my guard.*

*I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the three in one and one in three,
of whom all nature has creation,
O great Redeemer, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the God of my salvation;
salvation is of Christ our 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.
May we be fired by the Spirit to open our hearts as we embark on this
journey with each other and with you.
Amen*

Isaiah 6:1-8

New Revised Standard Version

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw God sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of God's robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:
"Holy, holy, holy is our God of hosts;
the whole earth is full of God's glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the sovereign, the God of hosts!”
⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of God saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

John 3:1-17

New Revised Standard Version

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon - Things that People are doing on Trinity Sunday While the Minister Ponders the Doctrine of the Trinity



Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

VU 313

Words: John Marriott

Music: Adapted from Felice de Giardini

*God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard and took their flight:
Hear us, we humble pray,
and where the Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!*

*Jesus, who came to bring,
On your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
Health to the troubled mind,
sight to the spirit blind, O now to humankind,
Let there be light!*

*Spirit of truth and love,
Life giving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;
Move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace, And in earth's darkest place,
Let there be light!*

*Blessed and holy three,
Glorious Trinity, wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride through the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



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

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

MV 30

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications
Music: © 1992 Ron Klusmeier

*It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

*It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

*It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 29

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Romans 8:12-17

New Revised Standard Version

¹² So then, siblings, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.