



**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:** Norma Grech

**January 17, 2021**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Jesus Calls Us**

Music: William Herbert Jude

**Call to Worship**

What do you do when God calls?

*Wake Up. Listen. Act.*

What do you do when God asks you to do something difficult?

*Wake Up. Listen. Act.*

What do you do when God asks you to do something impossible?

*Wake Up. Listen. Act.*

*Because with God, nothing is impossible.*

Not even changing ourselves?

*Not even changing the world.*

*So, what do we do? Wake Up; Listen; Act;*

*and in this living, we worship God.*

**Response**

**Take My Life and Let It Be**

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal

Music: Anonymous

**VU 506**

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

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

## 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

May the light of Christ  
shine in our world this day.



## Opening Hymn

### Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

MV 10

Words: Ruth Duck, 1993

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*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
Showing us what love must do.*

*Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the marketplace.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.*

*Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.*

## Prayer for Grace



*God of liberating justice, we have not always lived up to your call to defend the cause of those in poverty and uphold the children of those in need. We have not always judged people rightly, and sometimes we have been the oppressors of others. We ask that your Spirit of justice and peace rule our hearts, as long as the sun endures and the moon shines, from age to age. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## And Now for Something Completely Different



## Prayer of Illumination

*The scriptures proclaim to us the message of your light. Loving and ever-present God, shine your light on us so that we may discover and live a path that follows you. Amen*

## 1 Samuel 3: 1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to God under Eli. The word of God was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then God called, "Samuel! Samuel!"<sup>1</sup> and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So Samuel went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>God called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>God called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that God was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if someone calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, God, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now God came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup>Then God said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the temple. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I

am.”<sup>17</sup> Eli said, “What was it that God told you? Do not hide it from me. God; let him do what seems good to him.”

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, God was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of God.

## Hymn

## Here I Am, Lord

VU 509

Words and Music: © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

## John 1: 43-51

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the chosen one.”

These are Jesus words for us to consider in our lives today.

*Thanks be to God*

### Sermon

### Nazareth? – You have got to be kidding



### Hymn

### O Christian, Love

VU 594

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier  
Music: Alfred Scott-Gatty

*O Christian, love your sister and your brother!  
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;  
to worship rightly is to love each other,  
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.*

*Follow with reverent steps the great example:  
Jesus whose holy work was doing good;  
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,  
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.*

*Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour  
of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;  
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,  
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering



We offer our gifts to you God.  
May these gifts be available to all.  
May you find ways for us to open ourselves to share with everyone,  
whoever they are, wherever they come from.  
Amen

### 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

#### I Have Called You By Your Name

MV 161

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon  
© 1995 Hope Publishing Company

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.*

*I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.*

*I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.*

*I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.*

**Benediction & Commissioning**



**Postlude**

**When All Your Mercies, O My God**

Music: William Gardiner

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## Other Resources for Today

### Other Lectionary Readings

#### Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

God, you have searched me and known me.  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
    you discern my thoughts from far away.  
<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down,  
    and are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
    God, you know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
    and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
    it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit?  
    Or where can I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
    if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning  
    and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me,  
    and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
<sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
    and the light around me become night,”  
<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you;  
    the night is as bright as the day,  
    for darkness is as light to you.  
<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
    you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
    Wonderful are your works;  
    that I know very well.  
<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you,  
    when I was being made in secret,  
    intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
    In your book were written  
    all the days that were formed for me,  
    when none of them as yet existed.  
<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
    How vast is the sum of them!  
<sup>18</sup>I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
    I come to the end—I am still with you.

<sup>19</sup>O that you would kill the wicked, O God,  
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—  
<sup>20</sup>those who speak of you maliciously,  
and lift themselves up against you for evil!<sup>(b)</sup>  
<sup>21</sup>Do I not hate those who hate you, O GOD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
<sup>22</sup>I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.  
<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup>See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

### **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for God, and God for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised Jesus and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with them? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to Christ becomes one spirit. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.