



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

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

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

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Readings:** Betty McCulloch

**May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

In loving our neighbour and the sharing of love  
*together we worship*

In celebrating life and the sharing of life  
*together we worship*

In caring for the earth and the sharing of stewardship  
*together we worship*

In diversity of people and the sharing of gifts  
*together we worship*

In laughing and the sharing of journey  
*together we worship*

In love of this community here right now and the  
sharing of faith  
*together we worship*



**Response**

God Is Here (v. 1)

VU 389

*God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.*

## Life & Work of the Church



## Land Acknowledgement & Candle Lighting

### Opening Hymn

All The Way My Saviour Leads Me

VU 635

*All the way my Saviour leads me;  
what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt the tender mercy  
that through life has been my guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,  
here by faith in God to dwell,  
for I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*All the way my Saviour leads me,  
cheers each winding path I tread,  
gives me grace for every trial,  
feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter,  
and my soul athirst may be,  
gushing from the rock before me,  
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

*All the way my Saviour leads me;  
O the fullness of the love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
in my heavenly house above.  
When the spirit, clothed, immortal,  
wings its flight to realms of day,  
this my song through endless ages,  
'Jesus led me all the way!'*

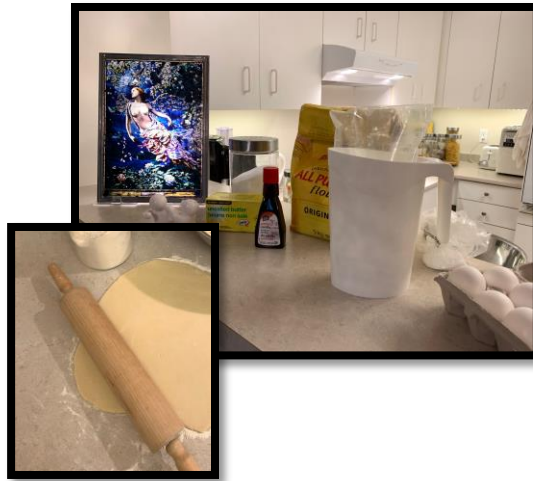
### Prayer for Grace (based on John 10)

***Merciful God, who is more than we can ever imagine, give us a wider vision of the world;  
give us a broader view of justice; give us dreams of peace that are not defined by boundaries of  
geography or race or religion, or by the limitations of worldly structures and systems.***

***Open our eyes and our ears that wherever we go, we may hear your voice calling us by name;  
calling us to serve, calling us to share, calling us to praise, so that we never give up on the  
promise of your kingdom, where the world is transformed, and all can enjoy life in all its  
fullness. Amen.***

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### And Now for Something Completely Different (Part 1)



#### Hymn

#### Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

*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  
the 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.*

#### 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*

**John 10:1-10**

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**Hymn:**

I Have Called You By Your Name

MV 161

*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 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.*

**Acts 2:42-47**

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as

they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of God for the People of God

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Houston... We Have a Problem**



**Hymn**

**Let Us Break Bread Together**

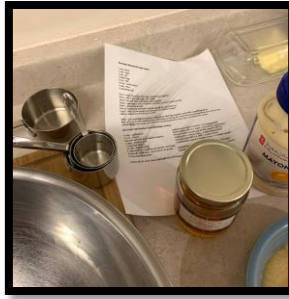
**VU 480**

*Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us praise God together on our knees,  
let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

## And Now for Something Completely Different (Part 2)



## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering our Gifts to God



### Communion



### Invitation & Peace

We come to this table as beloved children of God...

### The Great Thanksgiving

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!  
*Christ is risen indeed!*  
In life, in death,  
*in life beyond death,*  
God is with us.  
*We are not alone.*  
*Thanks be to God.*

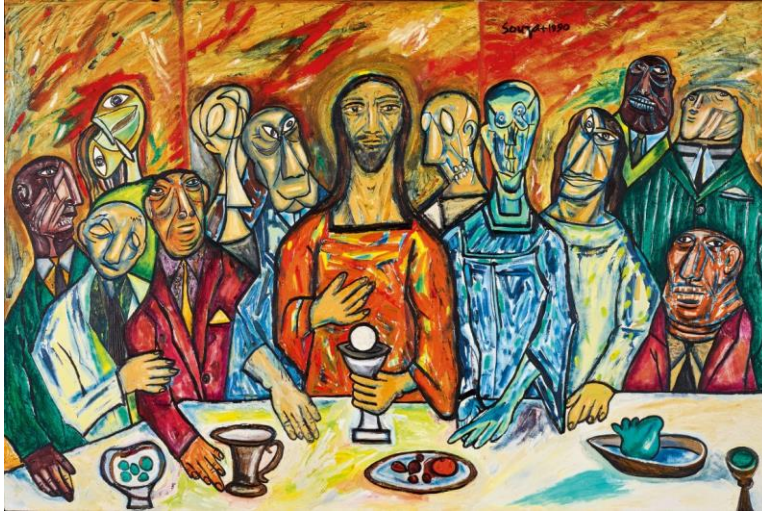
...we join in the song of a new day, to sing your praise:



## Sanctus and Benedictus

MV 203

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace!  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!*



## Memorial Acclamation

MV 204

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again! (x2)*

...by this witness, through this promise, in this hope, we praise you singing:

## Great Amen

MV 205

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! (x2)*

*...Sharing of the meal...*

## Prayer after Communion:

*Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us  
that we may live lives of thanksgiving.  
May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm,  
that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows  
your justice, your peace, and your love. Amen.*

**And Now for Something Completely Different – Part 3**



## 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

Go Forth for God (v.1, 2 & 4)

VU 418

*Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
till in God's heaven we see face to face.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.*

*Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.*

*Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.*

### Benediction & Commissioning

May you be blessed with joy.  
May you find moments of laughter in the midst of distress.  
May you cherish these moments and may they sustain you.  
May you be blessed with the fruits of humility.  
May your sharing and caring be instrumental in  
preserving your community and loving your neighbour.  
May you be blessed with peace.  
In the face of hardship and uncertainty  
may you know the faithful presence of the God who provides.  
Go in peace. Wash your hands. Love your neighbors. You are not alone.



### Postlude



## Other Resources for Today

### Art for Communion:

Francis Newton Souza, 1924-2002 (India) – the Last Supper, 1990

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/articles/a-monumental-reinterpretation-of-leonardo-da-vincis-last-supper>

### Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>

He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

### 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Rev Greg's Shareworthy Sugar Cookies**

1 cup - butter  
1 cup – sugar  
½ tsp - salt  
1 beaten egg  
¼ cup - milk  
1½ tsp – vanilla extract  
4 cups – flour  
½ tsp baking soda

Step 1- cream the butter, the sugar, and the salt together  
Step 2 – mix in the milk, eggs, and vanilla  
Step 3 – mix the flour and baking soda together  
Step 4 – add steps 2 and 3 together until they are just combined fully  
Step 5 – kneed the dough  
Step 6 – saranwrap and then chill the dough for one half hour  
Step 7 – roll out the dough and then cut into desired shapes  
Step 8 – bake 8 to 10 minutes at 375F

Voila – you have combined some really great offerings together and made something great.

Now, let's try it with substitutions – hold back on giving your best and put in something else, one or two substitutions and maybe you still have something decent, but I dare you to try this recipe

## **Rev Greg's Substitution Style (no) Sugar Cookies**

½ cup - applesauce	(substitution ratio is 1 butter = 0.5 applesauce)
½ cup – honey	(substitution ratio is 1 sugar = 0.5 to 0.66
applesauce)	
Skip the salt you don't need it anyway	(most recipes say you can do this without
affect)	
3 tbsp – mayonnaise	(substitution ratio is 1 egg = 3 tbsp mayonnaise)
¼ cup sour cream	(substitution ratio is 1 milk = 1 sour cream)
1½ tsp – maple syrup	(substitution ratio is 1 vanilla extract = 1 maple
syrup)	
2 cups of flour – nothing can totally substitute	
2 cups of rolled oats – grind them up good)	(substitution ratio is 1 flour = 1 ground rolled oats)
1½ tsp baking powder	(substitution ratio is 1 baking soda = 3 baking
powder)	

Follow all the same steps and bake 8 to 10 minutes at 375F – good luck

When we hold back our best, when we don't share the best that we have to offer, things might look like they are good, but when we get right in there, something is amiss...