



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

The Rev. Gregory Daly: revgregbbuc@rogers.com

Rev. Carmen Llanos: revcarmenllanos@gmail.com

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Julian Munro

Vocalists: Evan Garde, Roslyn Addison-Rudat

June 28, 2020 – Pride Sunday



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

God of creation, of diversity,
who painted all the colors of the rainbow
*giving life to all creatures,
who knew us before we were born.*

Lead us into the path of justice
And give us courage to serve and protect
those who are oppressed, marginalized
*so we can be your feet, your hands and voice
in a world in need of peace, justice and love
Amen*

Response

There Is Room for All

MV 62

Words and Music: Bruce Harding, © 2004

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!

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

Creator, we come to you with both the joys and the sorrows of our hearts.
We are grateful for the gift of life and the joy that it can bring.
For families and friends who love us.
For allies who stick up for us,
even when we cannot risk sticking up for ourselves.
For the great diversity you have created in our world.
We pray for those who suffer from discrimination
because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.
Who worry about their employment or who cannot find a job.
For those who must hide who they are to find housing.
For those who are not safe on our streets.
For those who do not feel safe in their place of worship.
Help us to end homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia,
and all forms of discrimination and hate.
Show us the way to make this world a better place for all.

—a prayer by Ruth Wood,



Opening Hymn

In Loving Partnership We Come

VU 603

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee
© 1983 Desert Flower Music

In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

Responsive Call to Action

At Birchcliff Bluffs United Church we are grateful for the gift of life and the gift of others in our lives. ***Each of us is created with dignity and worth.***

We are called to love each other and to do nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves. ***We honour the many ways that people live and love.***

We repent for the times when our church and our faith tradition has named lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and non-binary people unworthy. ***Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.***

We suffer when 2SLGBTQ+ persons are oppressed, excluded and shamed by religion that overlooks the fundamental call to justice in scripture. ***True justice flourishes when we can live with authenticity and integrity.***

May we work to build a church and a community where 2SLGBTQ+ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing and inviting their many gifts. ***We celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all as we share together today.***

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Hymn

Till All My People Are One

Words and Music by Ray Repp
© Otter Creek Music

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one

1. Spread the peace to others
Spread it everywhere
Make the world know right from wrong
Help the world to care
2. Open your heart to others
Lend a willing hand
Show the lonely and the poor
That God is in our land

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one

3. Cry out the sound of freedom
Make every sound be heard
People crying painfully
Hear their every word
4. Know that God is with us
In everything you do
Though hard times may lie ahead
Peace will follow through

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one
Till all my people are one

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 13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- ¹How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
³Consider and answer me, my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
⁴and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to Abba God,
because God has dealt bountifully with me.

Matthew 10:40-42 New Revised Standard Version

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Conversation

$$1 + 2 = 3$$



Hymn

We Are A Rainbow

Words and music by David Kai ©2017

We’re the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We’re a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,
We will shine a ray of hope that’s burning bright.

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place.
*We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart.
*We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.
*We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

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



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

For All The Children

Words and Music by David Lohman
© 2007 Welcome Song Music

God, we gather as your people
to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love.
Though the day may not yet be here,
we trust it soon will be
when your children will be free.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome,
in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

Oh, we pray for all the young lives
cut short by fear and shame,
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished
that Your love is for the few;
may their faith in You renew.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome,
in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

God, we're working for the future
when people far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature,

may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome,
in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

And Now for Something Completely Different

<https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/just-deserts.html>

Sermon - 1+2=3

<https://time.com/5601227/two-black-trans-women-murders-in-dallas-anti-trans-violence/>

and

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/community/toronto-for-all/transphobia/>

and

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Merton

Additional Lectionary Readings

Genesis 22:1-14

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Jeremiah 28:5-9

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen!

May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

Romans 6:12-23

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹² Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.