



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

Readings: Michelle Threndyle & Adriana Colavecchia

September 6, 2020 – Labour Day Sunday



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

When all seems right in our lives.

God is present, loving us.

When we are oppressed, living in bondage.

God is present, loving us.

When we are in the wilderness.

God is present, loving us.

When we arrive at a new place of hope.

God is present, loving us.

Let us worship God by being present here today.

Response

Dance With The Spirit

MV 156

Words and music: Jim Strathdee

© 1995 Desert Flower Music

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

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

Worship Our God

VU 401

Words: Fred Kaan © 1974 Hope Publishing Company
Music: © 1976 Ron Klusmeier.

Worship our God, worship our God
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son
raising our hands, raising our hands
in devotion to God who is one!

- 1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Worship our God, worship our God
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son
raising our hands, raising our hands
in devotion to God who is one!

- 2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Worship our God, worship our God
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son
raising our hands, raising our hands
in devotion to God who is one!

- 3 Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Worship our God, worship our God
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son
raising our hands, raising our hands
in devotion to God who is one!

- 5 Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!

Worship our God, worship our God
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son
raising our hands, raising our hands
in devotion to God who is one!

Prayer for Grace



God, Like the Israelites in Egypt we too wander in the wilderness. We look for paths in all the wrong places, and we squander our resources unwisely. Today we ask that you give us the courage to look to you; knowing that in your grace we are passed over despite our shortcomings and our foibles. Help us to live in that grace and find a path to journey with you. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

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*

Exodus 12: 1-14

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

God said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in

obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of God. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am God. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to God; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hymn

If Our God Had Simply Saved Us

VU 131

Words: traditional Hebrew. Translation: Don Pickard © 1993

Music: traditional Israeli

- 1 If our God had simply saved us,
merely brought us out of Egypt,
only opened up our prison: Dayeinu!

Dadayeinu, dadayeinu,
Dadayeinu, dayeinu, Dayeinu, dayeinu!
Dadayeinu, dadayeinu,
Dadayeinu, dayeinu, dayeinu!
- 2 If our God had split the Red Sea:
made a way through walls of water,
only opened up the waters: Dayeinu! R
- 3 If our God had kept our feet dry,
kept our heads above the waters,
kept us safely without drowning: Dayeinu! R
- 4 If our God had brought us over,
led us safely on to dry land;
(even though it was a desert): Dayeinu! R
- 5 If our God had only led us,
only gone ahead to guide us,
given cloud and fire to lead us: Dayeinu! R

- 6 If our God had only brought us
to the awful fire at Sinai:
filled us all with dread at Sinai: Dayeinu! R
- 7 If our God had spoken to us
only one word through the thunder
merely whispered on the mountain: Dayeinu! R
- 8 If our God had given to us
less than Ten Words as prescription
simply told us: 'Take the tablets!': Dayeinu! R
- 9 If our God had laid the law down:
tabled in the words by Moses,
only given us the Torah: Dayeinu! R
- 10 If our God had given us manna,
daily sent down bread from heaven,
simple manna in the desert: Dayeinu! R
- 11 If our God had only given
seventh day for joy and gladness,
without all the rest to help us: Dayeinu! R
- 12 If our God had from a mountain
let us glimpse the land of promise,
only gaze across the Jordan: Dayeinu! R
- 13 If our God had, through the river,
led us to dry bread and water
and not laid on milk and honey: Dayeinu! R
- 14 If our God had fed us only:
feasted us upon the mountain -
not inviting all the neighbours: Dayeinu! R
- 15 But, our God, who holds the banquet,
calls the whole world into freedom:
opens up the new creation: Dayeinu! R

Matthew 18: 15-20

The Message Translation

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell them—work it out between the two of you. If they listen, you’ve made a friend. If they won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If they still won’t listen, tell the

church. If they won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront them with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love.

18-20 "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, God in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

Get Ready to Go



Hymn

Go Down Moses Spiritual

When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go!
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go!

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

No more shall they in bondage toil, Let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil, Let my people go!

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, Let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free, Let my people go!

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

Your foes shall not before you stand, Let my people go!
And you'll possess fair Canaan's land, Let my people go!

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

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.



Communion

Invitation & Peace



The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you
And also with you!
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to God,
God is with us, in community – Trinity, Three in One.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Sanctus and Benedictus MV 203

Words: © 2005 William S. Kervin and Paul Stott
Music: traditional melody, England and Ireland

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!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

Great Amen MV 205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

...Sharing of the meal...

Prayer after Communion:



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

Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154

Words © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham
Music © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.
2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

Rev. Michael Blair Announcement

<https://www.united-church.ca/news/united-churchs-new-general-secretary>

Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 149

¹ Praise God!
Sing to God a new song,
sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.
² Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their sovereign.
³ Let them praise God's name with dancing,
making melody with tambourine and lyre.
⁴ For God takes pleasure in the people;
and adorns the humble with victory.
⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,
⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
⁸ to bind their leaders with fetters
and their nobles with chains of iron,
⁹ to execute on them the judgment decreed.
This is glory for all the faithful ones.
Praise God!

Romans 13: 8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires