Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather
The Rev. Gregory Daly: revgregbbuc@rogers.com
Music Director: Randy Vancourt

March 22 – Lent 4

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come on in as one Family
We come to listen to God,
To be filled with the Spirit's passion
To be moved to a journey of discovery in Jesus.
God invites you to form community
To embrace your identity as a covenant people.
We come here for God's blessing,
A blessing that transforms and renews,
A blessing that is a challenge to live out.
Let us worship God together and pray…
Loving God who equips us for the journey,
But even more accompanies us along the way
Bless us as we create and share new stories
May we know with our hearts and feel with our minds
your presence right now in our lives.
Amen

Life & Work of the Church

Land Acknowledgement & Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn Open My Eyes, That I May See VU 371

1 *Open my eyes, that I may see*
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 *Open my ears, that I may hear*
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 *Open my mouth, and let me bear*
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Prayer for Grace

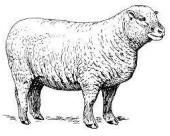
God of courage and determination, strengthen us AS we live with uncertainty.
Proclaim to us today your words of hope.
God of comfort and compassions, sustain us in times of trial.
Share with us today your words of peace.
God of loyalty and faithfulness, guide us to know a path forward.
Inspire us today through your words of love and care. Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And now for something completely different…

Watch this YouTube video and see attached sheep comparison

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e45dVgWgV64



Hymn My Soul is Thirsting for You MV 109

Refrain: *My soul is thirsting for you, O God,*
thirsting for you, my God (repeat 2 times)
thirsting for you, my God.

1. *O God you are my God,*
and I will always praise you.
In the shadow of your wings
I cling to you and you hold me high

Refrain: *My soul is thirsting for you, O God,*
thirsting for you, my God (repeat 2 times)
thirsting for you, my God.

2. *Through the day you walk with me,*
all the night your love surrounds me.
To the glory of your name I lift my hands,
I sing your praise.

Refrain: *My soul is thirsting for you, O God,*
thirsting for you, my God (repeat 2 times)
thirsting for you, my God.

3. *I will never be afraid,*
for I will not be abandoned.
Even when the road grows long and weary
your love will rescue me.

Refrain: *My soul is thirsting for you, O God,*
thirsting for you, my God (repeat 2 times)
thirsting for you, my 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.
Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen

Psalm 23

Wandering through green grassy glades
with valleys swathed in darkness;
in deep long tunnels of despair,
all my burdens laid on my shoulders;
I know that I have a shepherd.

With every footstep my way is guided.
When I stumble, I am lifted up
and led through valleys far and wide.
Streams flow and meander with life-giving water,
A place where I can sit and stay.

Here I am at peace.
My thoughts are known,
even the secrets of my heart.
Blessings fill my every day.
In this Spirit I am safe.

I imagine the light of heaven;
all around the crafted colours of Creation.
Arms outstretch to comfort me and
care for me, calling with a calming voice.
I like a sheep am led to a place of peace.

Modified from https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/peace-psalm

John 9:1-41 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. **4** We[a] must work the works of him who sent me[b] while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, **7** saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8** The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" **9** Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." **10** But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" **11** He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14** Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." **16** Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. **17** So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight **19** and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" **20** His parents answered, "We know that this is our

son, and that he was born blind; **21** but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." **22** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus[c] to be the Messiah[d] would be put out of the synagogue. **23** Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." **25** He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." **26** They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" **28** Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." **30** The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. **32** Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **34** They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" **36** He answered, "And who is he, sir?[f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." **38** He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

Sermon **Questions Questions Questions**

Hymn All The Way My Saviour Leads Me VU 635

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

2 *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!

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering *Invitation*

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Response: ***Gracious God, receive our prayer***

Lord's Prayer

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 How Great Thou Art VU 238

1 *O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder*
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

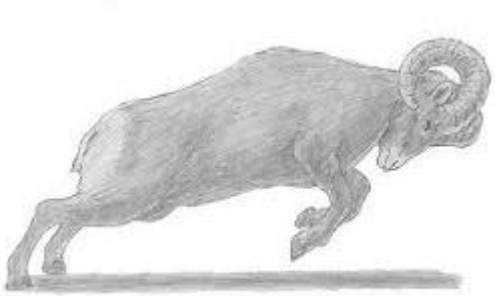
2 *When through the woods and forest glades I wander,*
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

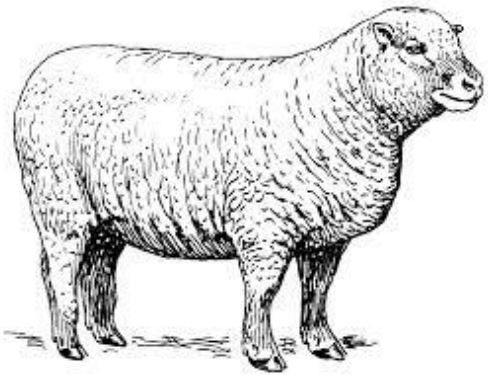
4 *When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation*
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

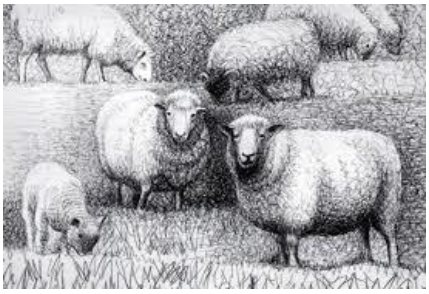
Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude

Other Resources for Today







1 Samuel 16:1-13

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." **2** Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." **4** Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" **5** He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD."[a] **7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." **9** Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." **10** Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." **11** Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." **12** He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Ephesians 5:8-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— **9** for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. **10** Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; **13** but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, **14** for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."