



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: Shirley Scott

October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther

Music: Ein' Feste Burg

Call to Worship

In a world that cries: "Fear me."

we will listen to Jesus' words: "Don't be afraid."

In a world that shouts: "look at me"

we will look around to see and listen to each other

In a world that pits us against each other.

we will live Jesus' call: "Love God. Love your neighbour as yourself."

In a world that radicalizes...

we, too, will be radical.

Radical with our hospitality.

Radical with our hope.

Radical with our love.

Then come to this place, ready to be who we are called to be.

Let us gather together and worship God.

Response

Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice

Words: Martin Luther

Music: 15th Century Folk Melody

Dear Christians, one and all rejoice,

With exultation springing,

And with united heart and voice

And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How Your right arm the victory won;
Right dearly it hath cost You.

But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of Your mercies great,
You planned my soul's salvation.
A saviour's heart you turned to me;
sought my redemption fervently,
You gave your dearest treasure.

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 – Reformation Sunday

Opening Hymn and Prayer for Grace

Though I May Speak

Words: Hal H. Hopson

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Music: Traditional English Melody

VU 372

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Matthew 22: 34-46

New Revised Standard Version

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, ““You shall love God with all your heart, and with



all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the

Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Hymn

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Words: Samuel Stennett

Music: The Southern Harmony, 1835

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
Oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Saviour ever reigns,
and scatters night away.

I am bound for the promised land,

I am bound for the promised land;
Oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
for I shall see my Saviour's face,
and in Your bosom rest.

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

New Revised Standard Version

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and God showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

⁴ God said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of God, died there in the land of Moab, at God’s command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.



⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as God had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom God knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that God sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon

I Wanna do it All



Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth
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In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Stewardship Moment

How do we take care of the seeds that we have planted?

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

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
and 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

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

United Church of Canada Resources:

<https://www.united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/reformation-sunday>

Other Lectionary Readings

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 NRSV

You yourselves know siblings that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for their own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17 NRSV

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

- ¹God, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- ⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- ¹³Turn, O God! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
- ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.
- ¹⁶Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- ¹⁷Let the favor of our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!