

# Northminster United Church

300 Sunset Blvd. Peterborough ON K9H 5L3

Tel# 705-748-4881

www.northminsteruc.ca † northminster@cogeco.net

**Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry**

[minister@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:minister@northminsteruc.ca)

**Music Director: Dustin Bowers**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

---

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

---

### Music as We Gather

#### Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Birthday wishes for George Shintani [95]

Birthday wishes for Dean Wasson [90]

The Service Leaflets are given to the Glory of God, in fond and loving memory of *Dawn Mahaffey*, a gift from her husband, Wayne Mahaffey.

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *Peace*

*Ken Nash & John Taylor*

One: As we continue our Advent journey, we remember our hope for the acceptance of the amazing diversity in our world, a diversity of which we are all a part. We long for the peace that can come when we learn to celebrate the diversity we share as the children of the Holy.

**All: We gather in hope.** (*The first blue candle is lit.*) **We long for peace. We worship in faith. We light this second blue advent candle, the candle of peace, as we wait expectantly for Emmanuel – God-with-us.** (*The second blue candle is lit.*)

One: Let us sing together verse 1 and 2 of VU6

“A Candle is Burning”

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

#### Opening Prayer

#### Words of Assurance:

One: In this season of anticipation and expectation, we are reminded that we are preparing for Emmanuel – God-with-us. That presence embodies the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Holy One this Advent Season. Through that presence we are encouraged to see and travel the pathway to new life.

**All: We are blessed. We are forgiven. We are accepted. We are loved.**

#### Hymn: VU29

“Hark the Glad Sound”

#### First Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-11

God's People Are Comforted  
40:1 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,<sup>[b]</sup>  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Young at Heart Time:**

*"The Donkey Mix-up"*

**Psalm Selection: VU802 (No Sung Responses)**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

One: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.

**All: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.**

One: Once you were gracious to your land, O God, you restored the fortunes of Jacob;

**All: you forgave the offence of your people, and pardoned all your sin.**

One: You drew back all your displeasure, and turned from your fiery wrath.

**All: Restore us again, God our Saviour, and put away your just anger toward us.**

One: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your wrath to all generations?

**All: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**

One: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.

**All: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.**

One: Let me hear what you will say, O God, for you will speak peace to your people, to the faithful who turn their hearts to you.

**All: Surely salvation is near those who fear you, and your glory will dwell in our land.**

One: Mercy and faithfulness will meet, justice and peace will embrace.

**All: Faithfulness will spring up from the earth, and righteousness look down from heaven.**

One: You, O God, will give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

**All: Righteousness will go before you, and the paths of your feet will be peace.**

One: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.

**All: God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.**

**Music for Meditation:**

*“Guide Us to the Perfect Light”  
(Northminster Choir)*

**Gospel Lesson:**

Mark 1:1-8

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,<sup>[c]</sup>

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,<sup>[d]</sup>  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared<sup>[e]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with<sup>[f]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

One: Out of the rich tapestry of our treasured faith stories, we hear the call of our forebears.

**All: Let us use hear their faith stories and respond by living faithfully our own stories.**

One: In the name of the one called, Jesus, Emmanuel.

**All: Amen.**

**Hymn: VU10**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

**Meditation:**

*“The Paradox of Peace”*

**The New Creed:**

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

**All: We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offer Our Gifts:** (The Offering plates are found on the communion table, please place your Offering on the plate as you exit)

**Dedication of Our Gifts**

**Minute for Mission:**

*“Leading the Way”*

Mission & Service–funded global partner the World Student Christian Federation–Africa Region gives university students a place to come together in education, faith, and activism.

WSCF-Africa empowers and connects responsible young leaders around the world on their path to change tomorrow. It encourages a culture of democracy to mobilize youth to become proactive in society, promoting positive change through dialogue and action between different traditions and cultures.

At a gathering, one of the World Student Christian Federation members shared these words:

As young people, we ask the churches not to spread hate speech or judgment but to preach love, peace, and acceptance for all people as God’s creation. We ask our churches to take part in interfaith dialogue, to start building relationships with members of other faiths, so that we may come to understand their beliefs and accept them as brothers and sisters. We ask our churches to acknowledge that we cannot master the truth; we can only approach the truth. Only God holds the truth. As the present youth, we are the church of the future. Because of this, it is important for the churches to communicate with us and to ensure that our opinions are heard. It is part of the role of churches to promote human dignity and to serve the common good.

We are thankful that Mission & Service is in partnership with the World Student Christian Federation and its vision of changing the world for the better.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

**Hymn: VU20**

*“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (VU916):**

**All     Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
  
The hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done**

by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU58

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**Blessing as We Go Forth:**

One: As we move through this season of preparation...

**All: ...the Holy moves with us, guiding us ever closer to  
the manger-side in the Bethlehem of our hearts!**

One: May we share the hope, peace, joy and love of that  
manger-side with all whom we meet.

**All: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Music as We Depart**

***Please remain seated until a Greeter comes and indicates that it is your turn to leave the sanctuary. Please proceed directly to the exit. If you require the lift, please, remain seated and a Greeter will let you know when the correct time is to proceed directly to the lift.***

***To allow for smooth exiting of the building please refrain from gathering in the hallways and entryways and maintain social distancing at all times, even in the parking lot.***

### **Prayer Cycle**

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle  
for the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Wellington United Church  
Wellington, ON

[*East Central Ontario Regional Council*]

### ***THANK YOU TO THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEERS***

<b>Duty</b>	<i>Elgin Northey</i>
<b>Elevator Operators</b>	<i>Barry Cowling, John Tewsley</i>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<i>John Scott, Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Registration</b>	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<i>Ruth Murray</i>
<b>Congregational Elder</b>	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Video</b>	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
<b>Videographer</b>	<i>Kathy Common</i>
<b>Sound</b>	<i>Jane Tousaw</i>

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
[minister@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:minister@northminsteruc.ca)

705-748-4881

Church Office  
[northminster@cogeco.net](mailto:northminster@cogeco.net)

705-748-4881

We ask everyone "TO REGISTER" for Sunday Worship Services [each week] through "Eventbrite" found on the website [www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca) or by calling the church office. Registering in advance is necessary to ensure a seat. If you are having difficulties registering, please call the office.

Just a friendly reminder that we all need to be very diligent in making sure everyone uses hand sanitizer upon entering the building and keeping a social distance of 6'. There is to be no physical contact. **MASKS MUST BE WORN PROPERLY, covering the nose, mouth and chin. Visors are not acceptable and scarves "do not count"**. Stay home if you are feeling sick. If you see anyone not complying to the COVID-19 protocols we ask that you would kindly remind them. We need to keep everyone safe!