

Northminster United Church

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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Pulpit Guest: Rev. John Taylor

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, February 28th, 2021

The Second Sunday of Lent

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

The 56th Anniversary for *Patricia & Don Wright*

Happy 90th Birthday Wishes to *Jean Hawthorne*

Happy 90th Birthday Wishes to *Bob Morris*

Happy 90th Birthday Wishes to *Shirley Dean*



Call to Worship:

One: The season of Lent is a time of reflection.

All: The season of let is a time of quiet listening.

One: Let us open ourselves to the mystery and surprise of the Holy.

All: Let us worship together. Amen!

Opening Hymn: VU367

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

1 Come down, O love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, my onward path illuming.

3 And so the yearning strong
with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till love creates the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: As we make our Lenten journey of faith, the Holy reminds us we are loved and cherished...

All: ...we are challenged to accept ourselves and others as the Holy accepts us – completely and wholly, loving us for who we are and encouraging us to grow and thrive.

One: In Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

The Sign of the Covenant

^{17:1}When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^[a] walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham;^[c] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring^[d] after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Young at Heart Time:

"The Valentine Class"

Responsive Selection: VU900

"The Song of Zechariah"

One: God shall fulfill the promise

All: and bring the people peace.

One: Blessed be the God of Israel,

All: who has come to the people and set them free,

One: who has raised up for us a mighty saviour,

All: born of the house of the servant David.

One: Through the holy prophets of old God promised to save us from our enemies,

All: from the hands of all who hate us,

One: to show the mercy promised to our ancestors,

All: to remember the holy covenant, the oath God swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,

One: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

All: free to serve God without fear, holy and righteous in God's presence, all the days of our life.

One: God shall fulfill the promise

All: and bring the people peace.

One: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

All: to give the people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

One: In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

All: to shine on those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

One: God shall fulfill the promise

All: and bring the people peace.

Music for Meditation

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 2:13-17

Jesus Calls Levi

^{2:13} Jesus^[a] went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁵ And as he sat at dinner^[b] in Levi's^[c] house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting^[d] with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of^[e] the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat^[f] with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

One: As the Holy One guides our Lenten journey through the faith stories of our forebears, may we once again know we are not alone in that journey.

All: May those stories inform, guide and challenge us as children of the Holy.

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

All: Amen.

Hymn: VU271

"There's A Wideness to God's Mercy"

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind

Meditation:

"Our God of Surprise"

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.**

Hymn: VU561

“Take Up Your Cross”

- 1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.
- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
- 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel;
your Saviour once accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
- 4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Affirm Minute:

“Two-Spirit”

Many countries, cultures and societies have different attitudes toward LGBT people. Unfortunately, until recently, many were negative. An exception was the traditional practices of most Canadian Indigenous Peoples. Many Indigenous nations gave LGBT folks a special name (in their own languages and/or dialects) and a place and role for them in their society.

For example, they included men who wanted to take more traditionally female roles and functions such as child protectors, healers, care givers, seers, teachers, history keepers, craft workers, entertainers, etc. The Nations gave them roles such as medical experts, keepers of the Nation's oral history, teachers, camp guards when the warriors were away, liaisons between the women and men, and carers for the dead. Each Nation, in its own way, accepted their special ways and inclinations and found a role for them that benefited the whole society.

When the Europeans arrived, they treated these people according to their own customs. Over the years the special role of these people has been lost. The Nations have broken many of their former

arrangements. The Nations didn't see this as just a sexual matter but as a cultural arrangement they wanted to honour.

In 1999 the Ojibwe called a meeting in Winnipeg to try and find an English term to replace their traditional terms for these members. They came up with Two-Spirit. It was not intended as a replacement for LGBT. In fact, more and more letters are now being added to LGBT. It needs to be replaced by a more succinct term. However, the term Two-Spirit is not being accepted by all in the Indigenous community. The term seems to imply a simple scale from a strong male spirit to a strong female spirit. Each individual is seen as a mix of the two and is somewhere along the scale. Many say they don't feel like a mix but as a whole, complete, individual. In fact many would like to be recognized as a third sex. Time will tell.

The term Especial Spirits may be more acceptable. The word "Especial" means a special or unique person or group. "Spirit" means the fundamental elements, reasoning, character and individuality of a person or group.

Two Spirits and the LGBT community may eventually be fully accepted in our society and fill roles that are meaningful to themselves and society.

Let us pray,

God, help us appreciate the fullness of humanity with all its diversity and uniqueness. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU567

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...

All: ...the presence of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we make our Lenten journey!

One: May we cherish that journey as we live and love together.

All: In the name of Jesus – Amen!

Music as We Depart

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 February 28, 2021

**Melrose Pastoral Charge
Melrose United Church**

Tyendinaga Township. Ontario

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

“Worship Services” and “Prayer” videos are available weekly on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website:

www.northminsteruc.ca



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Name: NUC Treasurer Email: treasurernuc@gmail.com

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Givings can be mailed to: 300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough, ON K9H 5L3
Or delivered personally.

During Covid restrictions, envelopes can be placed in
mail slot located to the left of the back door just off the parking lot.

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Rev. Kevin Derry email: minister@northminsteruc.ca