

## NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 10 am

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Advent II & Communion

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### Music as We Gather

#### Welcome

#### Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

#### Life, and Work of the Community

#### Music as We Centre

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath:

**“Peace”**

One: Peace, in the midst of war. Peace, in the midst of conflict. Peace, when everything is going wrong. God offers peace.

**All: We come seeking God's peace. We come seeking to be made whole. We come seeking to be reconciled. We come from the four winds seeking God-with-us.**

One: As we light the second purple candle, the candle representing peace, let us pray for the courage to be peaceful, let us pray for that peace that makes no sense to the world... (the second purple candle is lit). Amen.

**All: Amen.**

One: Let us join together in the singing of **VU6 vs 1,2, “A Candle is Burning”**

1 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.

- 2 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. < >

*Please remain seated*

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Words of Assurance:**

One: The promise of our faith is that we are always surrounded  
by the hope, peace, joy and love of the Holy.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action this  
Advent Season, we can live faithfully and authentically  
as children of the Holy.**

*Please stand for hymn*

### **Hymn: VU29**

“Hark the Glad Sound”

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name. < >

**First Lesson:** Malachai 3:1-4

*Matt Kraft*

<sup>3:1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Responsive Selection: VU900**

(from Luke 1:68-79)

*Led by Matt Kraft*

**Song of Zechariah**

(Benedictus)

Luke 1:68–79

Refrain

*Words: Michael Perry 1973,*

*Music: Hal H. Hopson 1983*

Unison

G C D C Am7 D G

God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.

Words copyright © 1973, music copyright © 1983 Hope Publishing Company.

**Refrain: God shall fulfil the promise 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. R**

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. R**

**Hymn: VU10** "Prepare the Way of the Lord"  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;  
prepare the way of the Lord! < >

**Young at Heart Time:** "Crossroads"

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 3:1-6 *Matt Kraft*

<sup>3:1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.<sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,<sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...  
**All: may we hear the stories from our faith history  
that inspire us to embrace the promise and new  
life shared with us by the Advent Spirit of the  
Holy.**

Reader: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, God-  
with-us...

**All: Amen.**

**Meditation:** *“Course Correction”*

### **Music for Meditation**

*Please stand for the New Creed*

### **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.**

*Voices United page 918*

### **We Receive the Offering**

**Doxology: VU542**

“We Give You But Your Own”

We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully. < >

**Dedication of Our Gifts**

**Hymn: VU08**

“Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath  
sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.  
It came a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

**Sacrament of Communion**

**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.**

*Voices United page 916*

*Please stand for Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU18**

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

- 1      There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
          a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
          a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
          the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
          where God, our God, may go!
  
- 2      O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
          get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
          the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
          like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
          shall pass, like a dream, away.
  
- 3      But the word of our God endureth,  
          whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
          and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
          the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
          and bring them safe to fold.
  
- 4      There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
          a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
          a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
          the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
          where God, our God, may go!

**Blessing as We Go Forth:**

One: Let us go from this place with hope and celebration.

**All: Let us go from this place with peace and compassion.**

One: Let us go from this place with joy and celebration.

**All: Let us go from this place with love and inclusion.**

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

**Sung Blessing: VU964**

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you everywhere,  
everywhere you may go. < >

**Music as the Worship Service Concludes**

**Regional Council Prayer Cycle**

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world for the week of December 8, 2024

**Greenbank United Church, Greenbank  
Seagrave United Church, Seagrave**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK’S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 8***

Duty	Paul Andrews
Elevator	Gale Osmond
Greeters	Lynn Bartholomew, Ann Thomas Bruce Newmaster
Scripture Reader	Matt Kraft
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Communion Servers	Frank & Donna Manley David Tonge, Maggie Crawford
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al & Lynn Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common
Coffee Fellowship	



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**- is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We invite you to bring items to support Kawartha Food Share. Boxes are located in Upper Wright Hall and back foyer [*exit to parking lot*]. If you wish to make a cash donation instead, there is a line provided on the offering envelopes. ***Please make cheques payable to: “Northminster United Church”***. This can be placed on the offering plate.

**Next date: December 8<sup>th</sup>** . We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: [treasurernuc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurernuc@gmail.com)

**OUR NURSERY FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN** is along the main corridor across from the kitchen.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** ... please contact Michele in the office to let her know you require offering envelopes. Email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca) or Tel. # 705-748-4881.

**NAME TAGS:** If you need a name tag, please contact the office. I would be happy to make you one. Also stick on name tags are available, located on the table at the back of the church and on table at west entrance into Sanctuary.

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS** If you are not on our weekly email list and would like to be, please let us know by sending us an email to: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

**ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN** is Wednesday mornings. If you have an announcement you want placed in the bulletin, please “email” your submission to [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

**PASTORAL CARE:** If you know someone that is in the hospital that we should know about, please call the office and let us know. The hospital does not notify us & there is no longer access to a church list. If calling the church after hours, please leave a message 705-748-4881.

Please keep in mind, we all need to take care of each other.

The Sanctuary is decorated and the “**Mitten Tree**” is waiting to be decorated with mittens, scarves, hats, underwear & socks. All items will be donated to those in need. Please consider making a donation to our tree and help make someone’s Christmas a bit brighter....

Donations will be collected during the Advent season.

## Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Advent I, White Gift, Baptism
Sunday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Advent II, Communion
Sunday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Advent III
Sunday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Advent IV
Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 05 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany Sunday