

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 10 am

Advent I

Baptism & White Gift

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:

“Hope”

One: Hope, in the midst of fear. Hope, in the midst of sorrow.
Hope, when it seems hopeless. God offers hope.

All: We come seeking that hope. We come seeking a new dream. We come from the four winds seeking God-with-us.

One: As we light the first blue candle, the candle representing hope, let us pray for the insight, let us pray for that promised hope... (the first blue candle is lit). Amen.

All: Amen.

One: Let us join together in the singing of **VU6 vs1, “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.

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.**

Hymn: VU02 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne. < >

Please stand...

Sacrament of Baptism:

One Now we are about to celebrate that gift of God's grace given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

All **We are one body and one spirit.
We have one hope in God's call to us.**

One There is in each of us the hope and promise of God,
Creator of all.

**All Out of the waters of Baptism we rise with new life, with
Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

Congregational Elder:

I present **Noah Thomas Davis** now for initiation into the
Body of Christ through Baptism.

To Parents/Guardians of those to be baptized:

Do you desire to have your child baptized?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you accept the responsibility of acting and speaking on your
child's behalf? Will you show your child by your example the
Christian life, and will you grow with your child in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

To all who have come forward:

Do you 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?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist
evil, and to live in love and justice?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and
actions?

I will, by the grace of God.

Will you join with your sisters and brothers in the community of
faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,
and love and serve others?

I will, by the grace of God.

Would those who are able please stand. To Northminster Church,
as a baptized and baptizing Church, do you commit yourselves to
support and nurture these persons within a community which
worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists
evil?"

We Do!

Please stand for the New Creed

The New Creed

One: Let us join together in a statement of our communal faith...

**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.**

Please be seated

One The presence of the Holy is within us and around us.

All It is so.

One We lift up our hearts.

All We are filled with joy and expectation.

One Let us give thanks to God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(the water is poured visibly and audibly into the font.)

One Blessed are you, Great Creator, maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea. We see your nourishing life-giving presence in the sign of water. At the beginning your Spirit was at work, brooding over the waters of creation's birth, breaking the waters with the word of light, bringing forth life in all its fullness. Again and again you have shown us your grace as water— in the healing pools of

Bethsada, parting the waters for the exodus, flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

All Blessed are you, O God.

One In the fullness of time, you gave us Jesus: nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the River Jordan, giver of living water, wellspring of eternal life.

All Blessed are you, O God.

One Therefore, eternal and present God, we bless you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that those who are baptized into the promise of Jesus, the Christ may live in your grace. Pour out, Divine Love, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing, and source of grace. May all who share in this baptism, being one in Christ, be nurtured by the bread of life.

All Now to you be given all glory, praise, honour, and faith, forever and forever! Amen!

The Baptism

One *Noah Thomas Davis*, I baptize you in the name of God the Creator, and of the Redeeming Son, and of the Sustaining Holy Spirit.

All Amen!

One *Noah Thomas Davis*, with the sign of the cross you are marked as Christ's forever.

All Amen!

One *Noah Thomas Davis* the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may remain a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

All Amen!

Baptismal Benediction

One Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us celebrate together with these people! All who join in this baptismal covenant are the Body of Christ in the world. Go in peace!

All Amen!

(all return to their places, and the service continues)

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

^{33:14} The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Psalm Selection: VU752 (from Psalm 25)

Refrain To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

One To you, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.
Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

**All Let none who wait for you be shamed;
let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.**

One Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

**All Lead me in your truth and teach me;
for you are God my saviour.
For you I wait all the day long. R**

One Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love,
for they are as old as time.

**All Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth.
According to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O God! R**

One You are upright and good, O God,
therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

**All You guide the humble to do what is right,
and teach the lowly your way.**

One All your ways are loving and sure

**All for those who keep your covenant
and commandments. R**

Hymn: VU30

“Hail to God’s Own Anointed”

1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

- 2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong, to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
- 3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend, his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove. His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love. < >

Young at Heart Time:

“The Magic Toy Shoppe”

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

^{21:25} ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

Responses

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:

"Is It Hope"

Music for Meditation

We Receive the Offering and White Gifts

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: VU09

"People, Look East"

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way. < >

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU672

“Take Time to Be Holy”

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

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 1, 2024

St. Andrew’s by the Lake United Church, Kingston

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK’S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 1

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Gerry Milburn
Greeters	Marion Milburn, Wayne Ferguson Dave Underhill
Scripture Reader	Unavailable at time of print
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al & Lynn Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Jim Boothby
Coffee Fellowship	Unavailable at time of print

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 8th . We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: treasurenuc@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 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

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

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.


BIBLE STUDY- SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd at 1 pm (following Meals to Go luncheon) & 7 pm. Please indicated your interest on sign up sheet located in hallway on bulletin board beside Kevin's office.

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 can be made throughout Advent season.



Decorate Our Mitten Tree

JESUS IS THE
H  **PE**
OF THE WORLD

December 1st is “White Gift Sunday” We are accepting UNwrapped gifts for Salvation Army. We also will have White Gift envelopes available for anyone that wishes to give a monetary donation. All monetary donations will go towards “Local Outreach”.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

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