

# NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 10 am

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Advent IV

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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:

“Love”

One: Love, in the midst of apathy – hate is not the opposite of love, apathy is.

**All: When apathy sets in, love is a choice. Love is less what we feel and more what we do.**

One: An act of love, a labour of love.

**All: We come choosing love when apathy is easier, choosing love when it means it may come with pain.**

One: As we light the last purple candle, the candle representing love, let us pray for Emmanuel, for love that resists apathy, for wisdom to choose the way of love even when it is woven together with pain and sorrow... (the last purple candle is lit). Amen.

**All: Amen.**

One: Let us join together in the singing of **VU6 vss 1, 2, 3 & 4 “A Candle is Burning”**.

*Please remain seated*

- 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.
- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth. < >

### **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: VU215**

“Hope of the World”

- 1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;  
save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
- 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.

- 3 Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from you to endless night.
- 4 Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us  
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;  
we render back the love your mercy gave us;  
take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.
- 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign has conquered grief and pain,  
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.  
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign. < >

**First Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5a

*Kathy Common*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**Responsive Selection: VU898 (Refrain 1)** from Luke 1:47-55  
*Led by Kathy Common*

**Song of Mary  
(Magnificat)**  
Luke 1:47-55

Refrain 1

*Michael Joncas 1978*

Unison

To God I lift my soul in praise, in  
God my sav - iour I re - joice.

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**Refrain 1: To God I lift my soul in praise,  
in God my saviour I rejoice.**

- One My soul proclaims God's greatness.  
**All My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.**  
One For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.  
**All From this day all generations will call me blessed.**  
One You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.  
**All Hallowed be your Name!**  
One You have mercy on those who fear you,  
**All From one generation to another. R**
- One You took action with a strong arm.  
**All You scattered the proud in their conceit.**  
One You pulled the mighty from their thrones.  
**All You raised the lowly.**  
One You filled the hungry with good things.  
**All You sent the rich away empty.**

One You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,  
**All for you remembered your promise of mercy,  
to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah,  
and to their children in every age. R**

**Hymn: VU68**

“All Poor Ones and Humble”

1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,  
come hastening, and feel not afraid;  
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,  
in lowly poor manger was laid.  
Though wise men who found him  
laid rich gifts around him,  
yet oxen they gave him their hay,  
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;  
contented in manger he lay.  
Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;  
our service he ne'er can despise;  
whose love still is able to show us that stable,  
where softly in manger he lies.

2 The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us  
and with us abide till his day.  
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,  
and death and despair flee away.  
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever  
from us the great love of our King;  
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;  
his praises we ever shall sing. R < >

**Young at Heart Time:**

“Back to the Magic Toy Shoppe”

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 1:39-45

*Kathy Common*

<sup>1:39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

## 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:

*“Love Songs”*

## 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: VU473**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with awe and reverence stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to us approacheth  
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, Lord most high! < >

**Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer:**

(VU916, A Paraphrase)

**All: Eternal Spirit,  
Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, Life Giver,  
Source of all that is and 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 the 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 and the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Please stand for the Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU01**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.
- R Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. R
- 3 O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R
- 4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. R



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. R
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. R
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R < >

### **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 22, 2024

#### **Calvary United Church, Kingston**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

## ***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 22***

Duty	Jaymes Winch
Elevator	Paula Winch
Greeters	Marion Milburn
	Olivia & Gord James
Scripture Reader	Kathy Common
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew

### **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: January 13<sup>th</sup>**. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer to: [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)

**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.

### Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Advent IV
Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve <b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Sunday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 05 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany Sunday

