

## NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3

Tel. 705-748-4881

[www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca) Email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

---

### *Christmas Eve*

---

#### **Music as We Gather**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Life and Work of the Community**

#### **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.

*Please stand for hymn*

#### **Hymn: VU06**

“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.
- 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.

5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light. < >

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath: "The Christ Candle"**

One *(The first four candles are lit)*

One We light the first four coloured candles to remind us of the hope, peace, joy and love of the Advent season. We light the Christ candle *(the centre, white candle is lit)* – a tiny, flickering flame blown about by each errant air current – symbolizing the light of the world we perceive in the risen Christ.

**All: We come to enfold the light of the world within our hearts, to stabilize the flickering within the shelter of our shared faith.**

One: We come, even as we are buffeted by the storms of uncertainty, stumbling because of gusts of fear and of longing, leaning into the headwinds of change unanticipated.

**All: We come, confident in the light, in our companionship across the distance, in our faith-fueled journey along the Way of Jesus.**

One: We come to perceive the light, felt deeply with our souls. Let us encounter God's living light in prayer:

**All: We free ourselves from distractions, O God, because we wish to give all our attention, our reverence, to you. Within this intimate darkness, we feel your passion for justice burning warm.**

**Within this night-like, blanketing tenderness, we perceive your Spirit's invitation to create a dawn of loving-kindness.**

**Within this enfolding womb of your presence, we are nourished by your strength, your courage, your daring, and your will. May it ever be so, this and every day. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Carol: VU60 (vss 1,3,5)**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
- R O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R
- 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R < >

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2-7

*Ruth Murray-Andrews*

<sup>9:2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Carol: VU69**

“Away in a Manger”

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there. < >

**Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

*Ruth Murray-Andrews*

<sup>2:1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Music for Meditation**

**Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-14**

*Ruth Murray-Andrews*

<sup>2:8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for

see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*Please stand*

**Carol: VU75 (vss. 1-4) “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”**

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.' < >

*Please be seated*

**Young at Heart Time:**

*“Night Song”*

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:15-20

*Read by Kevin*

<sup>2:15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who

heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Please remain seated*

**Carol: VU48**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'     Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'
  
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R
  
- 3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R < >

**Meditation:**

*“Messengers”*

**Carol: VU43**

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

- R Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. R
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. R < >

*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*

*Please be seated*

**Carol: VU59**

“Joy to the World”

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love. < >

**We Receive the Offering**

*Please stand*

**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**

*Please be seated*

**Carol: VU74**

“What Child is This”

- 1 What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?



R                    This, this is Christ the King,  
                         whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
                         haste, haste to bring him laud,  
                         the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2                    Why lies he in such mean estate  
                         where ox and ass are feeding?  
                         Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
                         the silent Word is pleading. R

3                    So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
                         come, one and all, to own him.  
                         The King of Kings salvation brings;  
                         let loving hearts enthrone him. R < >

*Please be seated*

### **A Christmas Prayer**

*Please stand for Closing Hymn*

### **Closing Carol: VU67**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1                    Silent night! Holy night!  
                         All is calm, all is bright  
                         round yon virgin mother and child.  
                         Holy infant so tender and mild,  
                         sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2                    Silent night! Holy night!  
                         Shepherds quake at the sight:  
                         glories stream from heaven afar,  
                         heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
                         Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3                    Silent night! Holy night!  
                         Son of God, love's pure light  
                         radiant beams from thy holy face,  
                         with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
                         Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. < >

**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 We Depart**



***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 24***

Duty	Dave Thom
Elevator	Wayne Doherty
Greeters	Kathy Thom, Carol Doherty
Scripture Reader	Ruth Murray-Andrews
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sound	Al Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew

MERRY  
Christmas