

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 10 am

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Music as We Gather

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that Northminster United Church and the communities it serves 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.

Music as We Centre

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Honouring the Unexpected

Please stand for Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU660

"How Firm a Foundation"

- 1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- 2 'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.
- 3 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

5 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!' < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

All: Called to remember the unexpected gifts of the Holy.

One: We are called to open ourselves to the Holy.

All: Called to faith-filled living.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The promise of the Epiphany Season is the ever-present
Light of the Holy.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, as we
find ourselves in the Light of Epiphany, we can live
faithfully and authentically as children of the Holy.**

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Arlene Petraney

^{45:3} Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?'
But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at
his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they
came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold
into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with
yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you
to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two
years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither
ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you

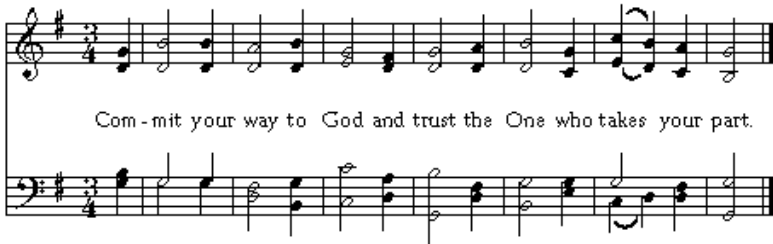
a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.”

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm Selection: VU763 (from Psalm 37) *Led by Arlene Petraný*
Psalm 37

Refrain

New Harmony of Zion 1764



Com - mit your way to God and trust the One who takes your part.

Refrain: Commit your way to God and trust the One who takes your part.

One Do not fret because of the wicked,
 or envy those who do evil.

**All For they soon wither like grass
 and fade away like the green leaf.**

One Trust in God and do good;

All dwell in the land and there find safe pasture.

One Find your delight in God,

All who will grant the desires of your heart. R

One God will make your vindication shine like the light,

All the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

One Be still before God and wait patiently;
All do not fret because some prosper in evil schemes.

One Let go of anger and abandon wrath.
All Do not fret - it can only do harm. R

One Those who do evil shall be cut off,
All but those who look to God shall inherit the earth.

One In a little while the wicked will be no more;
**All you will look where they were and their place
will be empty.**

One But the meek shall inherit the earth;
All they shall enjoy fullness of peace.

One Salvation for the righteous comes from God, their refuge in
time of trouble.

**All God helps and delivers, and rescues from the wicked
those who seek shelter. R**

Hymn: VU364

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

- 1 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Christ, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let
old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!
- 4 O cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace. < >

Young at Heart Time:

“Topsy Turvey”

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

Arlene Petransy

6:27 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Response

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 Spirit of the Holy.

Reader: In the name of Jesus, the Christ...

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"Surprise, Surprise"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for The New Creed

The New Creed

VU918

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.

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: VU681

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
 where sound the cries of race and clan,
 above the noise of selfish strife,
 we hear your words of life again.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
 on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
 from paths where hide the lures of greed,
 we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 The cup of water given for you
 still holds the freshness of your grace;
 yet long these multitudes to view
 the strong compassion of your face.
- 4 O Jesus, from the mountain side,
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide,

5 and tread the city's streets again,
till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer:

A Paraphrase

**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.**

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Please stand for Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU677

“O God of Every Nation”

1 O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.

- 2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Give strength to those who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard:
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division,
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when peace on earth shall reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain. < >

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 love and inclusion.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Light of Epiphany.
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

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Feb 23

Duty	Dave Thom
Elevator	Carrie Varga
Greeters	Kathy Thom, Dave Underhill
	John Tewsley
Scripture Reader	Arlene Petransy
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al Bartholomew/Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond
Videographer	Jim Boothby
Fellowship	Affirm Ministry
Fellowship (Mar)	Finance

~~Announcements~~

2024 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS are now ready for pick up.

DESSERT SUNDAY! Due to bad weather last Sunday we had to postpone!! Please join us this Sunday, February 23, 2025 following the worship service for some sweet treats.

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: March 9th**. We also accept eTransfers to: 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 or Tel. # 705-748-4881.

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.

GRACE BUCK INCOME TAX SERVICE will be preparing Income Tax returns again this year at Northminster. Scheduled dates: March 11th, March 25th, April 8th, and April 22nd. For further information please call 705-745-4303

Your Life. Your Legacy Presentation: Interactive discussion on the advantages of pre-arranging a funeral. It may also include a guest presenter on related subjects such as Estate Planning, Wills and Powers of Attorney, Fraud Prevention. A light lunch & beverage will be served on **Tuesday, March 4th**. Watch for further details.

DAY TOURS DATE CONFIRMATION:

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL (still available)

Date: ***June 8, 2025**

***date conflicts with the UCC 100th Anniversary at Lang Village**

Pick up at Walmart parking lot on Chemong Road

Leave at 9:15 am – Return approx. 8:30 pm

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL Alternative Date

Date: **June 22, 2025**

Pick up in Port Hope (Carpool Lot on Toronto Rd, south of Hwy 401)

Meet at 9:30 am for 9:45 am departure

KINGSTON 1000 ISLAND CRUISE (BOLDT & SINGER CASTLE)

Date: **July 17, 2025**

Pick up at Walmart parking lot on Chemong Road

Leave at 8:00 am – Return approx.. 8:45 pm

MUSKOKA STEAMSHIPS-SHIP & SHOW

Date: **July 31, 2025**

Pick up at Walmart parking lot on Chemong Road

Leave at 8:15 am – Return approx. 7:00 pm



**CARDINAL
LAKESHORE
TOURS**

To book the tour(s) of interest, call:

Adam at Bowmanville office

1-905-623-1511 asap

to reserve your seat!!!