

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10 am

Epiphany Sunday

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.

Music as We Centre

Lighting the Christ Candle: Honouring the Symbols of the Magi

Please stand for Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU36 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

R come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: R

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: R
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: R < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us into the Epiphany Light.

All: Called to worship.

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: Isaiah 60:1-6

Dave Underhill

^{60:1} Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalm Selection: VU790, Parts 1 & 2

(from Psalm 72)

Led by Dave Underhill

Psalm 72

Refrain

Johann Crüger 1640

Hail to God's own a - nointed - ed, who rules in e - qui - ty.

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.
Part One (1-8)

One Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,

**All for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice;**

One that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,

All and the hills, prosperity with justice. R

One May your anointed defend the cause of the poor
among the people, save the children of the needy, and crush
the oppressor.

**All May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.**

One May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth;

**All may your anointed be one in whose days
justice shall flourish and peace abound
till the moon is no more. R**

Part Two (10-14)

One May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

All May all rulers do homage, and all nations render service.

One For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,
the poor and those who have no helper.

**All Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the
needy, and save the lives of the poor.**

One From oppression and violence your anointed shall redeem
their life,

All and count as precious their blood. R

Hymn: VU79

“Arise, Your Light is Come”

1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong. < >

Young at Heart Time:

“Camels and Caravans”

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Dave Underhill

^{2:1} In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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:

"Stars and Angels"

Music for Meditation

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.

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: VU 71

“T'was in the Moon of Winter Time”

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

R Jesus your King is born,
 Jesus is born,
 in excelsis gloria.

2 Within a lodge of broken bark
 the tender babe was found,
 a ragged robe of rabbit skin
 enwrapped his beauty round;

but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: R

3 The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. R

4 O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy: R < >

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU91

“The First Nowell”

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. R

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. R

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. 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 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 Jan 05

Duty	Paul Andrews
Elevator	Gerry Milburn
Greeters	Marion Milburn, Bruce Newmaster Linda Munroe
Scripture Reader	Dave Underhill
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common

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 13th We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer:
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.

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.

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.