

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10 am

4th Sunday after Epiphany & Soup Lunch

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 Mystery and Compassion of Jesus

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU336 "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

- 1 Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
daystar, in my heart appear.

- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.

- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day. < >

Life and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Called by the Holy to worship.

All: Called to hear the wisdom of prophets from today and yesterday.

One: Called to sing, pray, and reflect. Let us worship.

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: As we move through the season of Holy Light, we see all that creation can be and all that we can be.

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are blessed.

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *Iain Buchanan*

^{18:15} The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' ¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

Please remain seated

Psalm Selection: VU833 from Psalm 111 *Led by Iain Buchanan*

Psalm 111

Refrain

Hal H. Hopson 1989

Unison



One I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**All Great are your works, O God,
studied by all who delight in them.**

One Honour and majesty are your work;
your righteousness endures forever.

**All You have won renown for your wonders;
you are gracious and full of compassion. R**

One You give food to those who fear you;
you keep your covenant always in mind.

**All You have shown your power in action,
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

One The works of your hands are faithful and just;
all your precepts trustworthy.

**All They stand fast forever and ever;
grounded in justice and truth.**

One You sent redemption to your people;

**All you decreed your covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is your name. R**

One The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;

**All those who practise it have good understanding.
May your praise endure forever. R**

Young at Heart Time:

"The Storyteller"

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28

Iain Buchanan

^{1:21} They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 move into the Epiphany Light of the Holy.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: Amen.

Please remain seated

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. < >

Meditation:

"With Authority"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for the New Creed

The New Creed:

One Let us stand as we are able and 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.

Please be seated

Hymn: VU589

"Lord, Speak to Me"

- 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.

- 2 O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.
- 3 O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.
- 4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show. < >

We Receive the Offering

Please stand for Offering Hymn

Doxology: VU541 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One < >

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Minute for Mission: *"Learning the Gospel at Camp"*
Read by Iain Buchanan

Church camp has been an important part of my faith journey. I attended youth camp as a teen with my girlfriend (who would later become my spouse), counselled for a couple of summers, and our kids started as soon as they could and went for many years. It was as a counsellor that I learned many of the important practical skills that impacted my years of congregational ministry.

United Church camps are one of the longest lived and most successful training grounds for leaders, and for sharing gospel living, that the church has.

I am happy to know that Mission and Service is part of helping them continue.

—Dave Jagger, Community of Faith Stewardship Lead

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

(VU916, 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.**

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU686

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
 bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
 gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
 pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 that we fail not them nor thee. < >

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place as children of the Holy.

All: We go into the Epiphany Light of the Holy.

One: Let us go from this place as children of Light.

All: We go in peace.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing:

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will be with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching you with love;
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. < >

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 January 28, 2024

***Tory Hill Pastoral Charge
Gooderham United Church
Wilberforce United Church***

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Jan 28th

Duty	Nelson Pickett
Elevator	Gale Osmond
Greeters	Kathy & Dave Thom
	Cathy & Dave Underhill *
Scripture Reader	Iain Buchanan
Minute for Mission	Iain Buchanan
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Alex Brunton/Al Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common
Coffee Fellowship	Worship Committee
Coffee Fellowship (Feb)	Mission & Outreach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Northminster United Church Choir would love you to join them...

They meet each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary for practice. No previous experience required, just the joy of music. If you have any questions, please speak with Dustin Bowers or call the church office, we can answer your questions...

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, we ask that you place money in a separate envelope clearly marked as "*Donation to Kawartha Food Share*" also include your name or envelope number. ***Please make cheques payable to: "Northminster United Church"***. This can be placed on the offering plate. **Next date: February 11th**. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: treasurernuc@gmail.com



OUR NURSERY FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN is along the main corridor across from the kitchen.

WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING:

Greeters, elevator operators and Sunday Duty persons. If you are not already on our volunteer list, please consider helping out. If you could spare one Sunday every 4 or 5 weeks. Please contact the office. 705-748-4881

“VIDEO SLIDESHOW OPERATORS” & “AUDIO TECH” required. We are looking for more people to sign up to help with Sunday video & sound. No previous experience required and you will be trained. To find out more information please call the office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ... please let the office know if you require offering envelopes for 2024. Email: info@northminsteruc.ca or Tel. # 705-748-4881

If you currently use an envelope with a number, we will continue using that number associated with your name. If you would like us to print your envelopes with your number, we will be more than happy to do so. Please contact the office directly.

Please send me an email letting me know who you are and I will make sure you have envelopes available with your # for the New Year.



If you need a name tag, please contact the office for one. 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due... All heads of church ministry and committees and anyone who generally writes a report for the Annual Report are requested to submit report to Michele [by email preferred] asap. Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

Please let Michele know of any errors or omissions.