

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, March 16th, 2025 at 10 am

2nd Sunday in Lent

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 Covenants with the Holy and Each Other”

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU104 “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

- 1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;

Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

- 3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless. < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

All: Called into covenant with the Holy and each other.

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

All: Called to remember those covenants as we live and love together in faith.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The journey of the Lenten season prepares us for the life-changing events of our faith history found in the cherished stories of this reflective season of the church.

All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, as we travel along the Lenten pathway, we can live faithfully and authentically as children of the Holy.

First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Iain Buchanan

^{15:1} After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ² But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no

offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’⁵ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’⁸ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’⁹ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

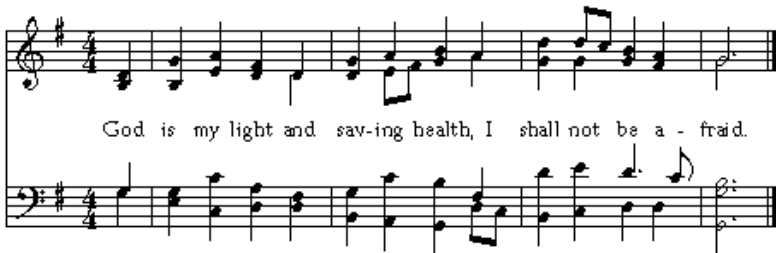
¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

Psalm Selection: VU754 (from Psalm 27) *Led by Iain Buchanan*

Psalm 27

Refrain

Jeremia b Clarke



God is my light and sav-ing health, I shall not be a - fraid.

One God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**All God is the stronghold of my life,
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One When the wicked close in to devour me,
All it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.

One If an army should encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid;

**All if war should arise against me,
even then I will not be dismayed. R**

One One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:
that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**All to gaze on your beauty, O God,
and to seek you in your temple.**

One For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**All you will hide me under the cover of your tent,
you will set me high upon a rock.**

One And now you have raised my head
above my enemies round about me.

**All Therefore I will offer in your dwelling
a sacrifice with great gladness. R**

One Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer
me. Your face, O God, I seek.

**All Do not hide your face from me;
do not reject your servant in anger,
you who have been my helper.**

One Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**All Though my father and mother forsake me,
my God will take me up. R**

One Teach me your way, O God,

**All lead me on a level path,
safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

One Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

All for liars and false witnesses arise against me.

One I believe that I shall see God's goodness
in the land of the living.

**All Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;
yes, wait for God! R**

Hymn: VU286

“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

- 1 If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, whatever betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.

- 2 God will embrace your pain and weeping,
your helpless anger and distress.
If you are in God's care and keeping,
in sorrow will God love you less?
For Christ, who took for you a cross,
will bring you safe through every loss.

- 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do your own part faithfully,
and trust God's word; though undeserving,
you'll find God's promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in God indeed. < >

Young at Heart Time:

“Jackson Makes a Promise”

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35

Iain Buchanan

^{13:31} At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ ³² He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

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:

“Expectant”

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: VU544

“In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done. < >

Dedication of Our Gifts

Minute for Mission:

*Read by Iain Buchanan
“A Time of Reflection”*

As we journey through Lent and all the hope and possibility 2025 will bring, it's also a time to reflect on the growth we experienced in leading up to today. Through moments of peace and challenge, joy and sorrow, it has been a true blessing to witness God at work through people like you.

Amid earthquakes, conflict, economic struggles, hunger, and more, you have consistently asked, “How can we help?” Thank you for holding our neighbors in warm, compassionate care throughout a challenging year. Together, you have helped put food on tables, rebuild communities after disasters, provide life-saving medication, educate children, and so much more.

Your gifts continue to support our partners as they respond to urgent needs in Canada and around the world, bringing hope and breaking down barriers so that they can keep doing their vital work. As we reflect on this past year and welcome the new one, we are deeply grateful for your support of Mission and Service. Thank you for bringing hope to so many.

Hymn: VU663

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine.

- 2 While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide,
bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

- 3 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU327

“All Praise to Thee”

- 1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine,
didst yield the glory that of right was thine,
that in our troubled hearts thy grace might shine:
hallelujah; hallelujah!
- 2 Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;
by thee the outcast and the poor were sought,
and by thy death was God's salvation wrought:
hallelujah; hallelujah!
- 3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee,
who wast a servant that we might be free,
humbling thyself to death on Calvary:
hallelujah; hallelujah!
- 4 Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou
art high exalted o'er all creatures now,
and given the name to which all knees shall bow:
hallelujah; hallelujah!
- 5 Let every tongue confess with one accord
in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;
and God eternal be by all adored:
hallelujah; hallelujah! < >

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 inspiration of our Lenten journey. 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 Mar 16th

Duty	Paul Andrews
Elevator	Carol Murduff
Greeters	Ann Thomas, Kathy Thom Pat Brunton
Scripture Reader	Rev Iain Buchanan
Minute for Mission	Rev Iain Buchanan
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al Bartholomew/Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Finance
Fellowship (Apr)	Mission & Outreach

~~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: April 13th**. 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 25th**, April 8th, and April 22nd. For further information please call 705-745-4303

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) will be held following Worship service on **Sunday, March 30th**. Please plan to attend. This is the time to ask your questions...