

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3
Tel. 705-748-4881

www.northminsteruc.ca Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

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

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025 at 10 am

3rd 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 the Faith Stories that Guide Our Living and Loving

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU273

“The King of Love”

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever! < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

All: Called to hear the stories of our faith, new and old.

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

All: Called to share our own stories as children of the Holy.

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.

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm Selection: VU781, Refrain 2

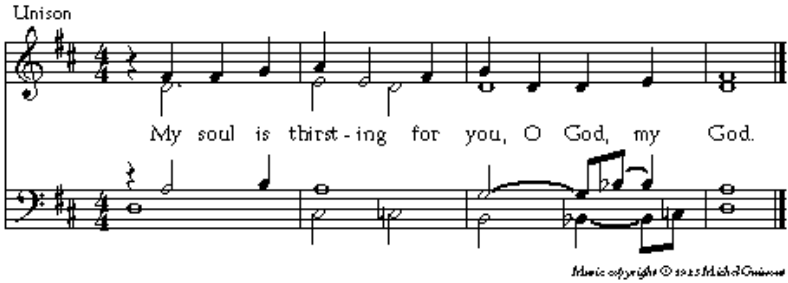
from Psalm 63
Led by Maureen Pickett

Psalm 63

Refrain 2

Michel Guimont 1985

Unison



My soul is thirst-ing for you, O God, my God.

Music copyright © 1985 Michel Guimont

One You are my God, I long for you from early morning.
My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land.
My soul thirsts for you.

**All In the sanctuary let me see
how mighty are your works;
your constant love is better than life itself,
and so I will praise you. R**

One I will give thanks as long as I live;
I raise my hands in prayer.

**All My soul will feast and be filled,
and I will sing and praise you. R**

One As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God;
I think of you all night long,
for you are my constant help.

**All In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe. R**

Hymn: VU508

"Just as I Am"

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. < >

Young at Heart Time: *“How Does Your Garden Grow?”*

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

Maureen Pickett

^{13:1} At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?’ ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?’ ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

⁶Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” ⁸He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

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:

“Are We There Yet”

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

Hymn: VU288

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R < >

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 the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU658

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

- 1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.
- 2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.
- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be. < >

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 23rd

Duty	Nelson Pickett
Elevator	Wayne Doherty
Greeters	Carol Doherty
	Kathy & Dave Thom
Scripture Reader	Maureen Pickett
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al Bartholomew/Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond
Videographer	Jim Boothby
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...

Sunday, April 13th PALM SUNDAY with Communion

Friday, April 18th MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY
Joint service at St. James' United Church at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 20th EASTER SUNDAY
serving hot cross buns

