

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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

Music Director: Dustin Bowers
Sunday, March 30th, 2025 at 10 am

4th 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 New Creation Promised by the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU477

"I Come with Joy"

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

All: Called to receive the promise of a New Creation.

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

All: Called to share in the gift of that promise.

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.

Hymn: VU402

“We are One”

- 1 We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.

2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

3 We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.

4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Young at Heart Time:

"A New Creation"

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Gord James

^{15:1} Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

³ So he told them this parable:

'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few

days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²²But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

²⁵'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

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 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:

"Reconciled"

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: VU271

“There’s a Wideness to God’s Mercy”

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.

- 3 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?

- 5 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU662

“Lead Me God”

Lead me, God,
lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, and you, God only,
who makes me to dwell in safety.

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 30th

Duty
Elevator
Greeters

Dave Thom
John Tewsley
Marg & Al Renwick, Carrie Varga

Scripture Reader

Gord James

Sunday School Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator

Maggie Crawford
Gale Osmond

Sound

Gale Osmond

Video

Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond

Videographer

Kathy Common

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: treasurenuc@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: **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