

## NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 10 am

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### *Easter Sunday* *New Members Sunday*

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#### **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:** Celebrating the Resurrection

*Please stand for the Opening Hymn*

**Opening Hymn: VU155** "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!

now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

- 4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah! < >

## **Life, and Work of the Community**

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Called to celebrate an Easter faith.

**All: Hallelujah! The stone is moved!**

One: Called to live an Easter faith.

**All: Hallelujah! The tomb is empty!**

One: Called to share an Easter hope as a family of faith.

**All: Hallelujah! Jesus is risen!**

One: Let us worship!

**All: Let us worship together!**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Words of Assurance:**

One: The promise of an Easter faith tells us the Holy loves and cherishes each one of us for who we are and all that we may become.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, we live our Easter faith.**

*Please remain seated*

#### **Welcoming New Members:**

One: Now we are about to celebrate that gift of God's grace given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism as we reaffirm together our Baptismal Faith.

**All: We are one body and one spirit. We have one hope in God's call to us.**

One: There is in each of us the hope and promise of God, Creator of all.

**All: Out of the waters of Baptism we rise with new life, with Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

Allyson Rader  
Caleb Susko  
Gavin Muir  
William Crane  
Ruth Whitnell  
Betty Wigle  
Grace Dixon  
Michael Milburn  
Lauren Monaghan  
Donald Grattan Bullock  
Marilyn Jane Bullock  
George Turner

Evelyn Turner  
Iain Buchanan  
Lisa Buchanan  
Marion Buchanan  
Sylvia Drummond  
Alex Brunton  
Pat Brunton  
Al Bartholomew  
Lynn Bartholomew  
Gale Osmond  
Susan Collins  
Debbie Campbell

**Congregational Elder:** I present (N\_\_\_\_\_) Now for Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Faith or transfer into Northminster from other faith communities.

One: I ask you all now, do you wish to reaffirm your baptismal faith?

**All: I do, by the grace of God.**

One: Do you 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?

**All: I do, by the grace of God.**

One: Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

**All: I do, by the grace of God.**

One: Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

**All: I will, by the grace of God.**

One: Will you join with your sisters and brothers in the community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**All: I will, by the grace of God.**

One: Would everyone stand in body or spirit as you are able. To Northminster Church, as a baptized and baptizing Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?"

**All: We Do!**

**The New Creed**    *Please stand*

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**

*(the Congregation is seated)*

One: The presence of the Holy is within us and around us.

**All: It is so.**

One: We lift up our hearts.

**All: We are filled with joy and expectation.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*(Now water is poured visibly and audibly into the font.)*

One: Blessed are you, Great Creator, maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea. We see your nourishing life-giving presence in the sign of water. At the beginning your Spirit was at work, brooding over the waters of creation's birth, breaking the waters with the word of light, bringing forth life in all its fullness. Again and again you have shown us your grace as water— in the healing pools of Bethesda, parting the waters for the exodus, flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

**All: Blessed are you, O God.**

One: In the fullness of time, you gave us Jesus: nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the River Jordan, giver of living water, wellspring of eternal life.

**All: Blessed are you, O God.**

One: Therefore, eternal and present God, we bless you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that those who are baptized into the promise of Jesus, the Christ may live in your grace. Pour out, Divine Love, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing, and source of grace. May all who share in this baptism, being one in Christ, be nurtured by the bread of life.

**All: Now to you be given all glory, praise, honour, and faith, forever and forever! Amen!**

### **The Renewal of Baptismal Faith**

One: Remember your Baptism and be thankful.

**All: Amen!**

One: [N\_\_\_\_\_], the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may remain a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

Allyson Rader

Caleb Susko

Gavin Muir

William Crane

Ruth Whitnell

Betty Wigle

Grace Dixon

Michael Milburn

Lauren Monaghan

Donald Grattan Bullock

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Gale Osmond

Susan Collins

Debbie Campbell

**All: Amen!**

### **Baptismal Benediction**

One: As a family of faith in Christ, let us celebrate together with these people!

*(Applause, folks are seated)*

**Gospel Lesson:** John 20:1-10

*Matt Kraft*

20:1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**Responsive Selection: VU837 Parts 1, 2, & 3** (from Psalm 118)  
*Led by Matt Kraft*

Refrain

*Albert Ham ca. 1900*

The image shows musical notation for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, starting with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. There is a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) followed by a quarter note C5. The bass line consists of a half note G3, a half note Bb3, and a whole note C4. The lyrics 'Hal - le - lu - jab! bal - le - lu - jab!' are written below the treble staff.

Part One (1-4)

One Let Israel now say:  
**All 'God's love endures for ever.'**  
 One Let the house of Aaron say:  
**All 'God's love endures for ever.'**  
 One Let those who fear God say:  
**All 'God's love endures for ever.' R**

Part Two (14-18)

One God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

**All There are shouts of joy and deliverance  
in the tents of the righteous.**

One The right hand of God does mighty things;  
the right hand of God raises up.

**All The right hand of God does mighty things.**

One I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has  
done.

**All God indeed punished me,  
but did not give me over to death. R**

Part Three (19-24)

One Open to me the gates of the temple,  
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

**All This is the gate of God;  
through it the righteous shall enter.**

One I thank you for you have answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

**All The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

One This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.  
**This is the day that God has made,**

**All let us rejoice and be glad in it! R**

**Hymn: VU165**

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness:  
God has brought forth Israel  
into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today,  
Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun has risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

- 3 Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to gladden faithful hearts,  
who with true affection  
welcome in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!
- 4 Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal,  
hold him as a mortal:  
for today amid his own  
he now stands, bestowing  
God's true peace which evermore  
passes human knowing.

**Young at Heart Time:**

*"The Last Easter Egg"*

**Gospel Lesson (con'd):** John 20:11-18

*Matt Kraft*

<sup>20:11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## 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 as we live and love together in a resurrection faith.

Reader: In the name of the Risen Jesus...

**All:** Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Meditation:

*“Resurrection Promise”*

## Music for Meditation

### We Receive the Offering

*Please stand for the 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

**Hymn: VU159**

*“The Strife is O’er”*

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun, hallelujah!
- 2 The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed;  
let shouts of holy joy outburst, hallelujah!
- 3 He closed the ancient gates of hell,  
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
let songs of praise his triumph tell, hallelujah!
- 4 On the third morn he rose again,  
glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain, hallelujah! < >

## Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

*Please stand for the Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU164**

“The Day of Resurrection”

- 1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
- 2 Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright  
the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light,  
and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain  
Christ's own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise  
the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph, and all that  
is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes  
of gladness blend,  
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end. < >

**Blessing as We Go Forth:**

One: Let us go from this place knowing the Resurrection  
Promise of the Holy.

**All: We go in celebration.**

One: Let us go from this place living the Resurrection  
Promise of the Holy.

**All: We go in love.**

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Resurrection  
Promise of the Holy.

**All: We go in hope and peace.**

One: Let us go in peace.

**All: Peace be with us! 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 March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

***Rural Faith Pastoral Charge  
Rural Faith United Church, Baltimore***

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

**THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Mar 31<sup>st</sup>**

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Duty                      | Jaymes Winch                |
| Elevator                  | Paula Winch                 |
| Greeters                  | Marg & Al Renwick           |
| Scripture Reader          | Matt Kraft                  |
| 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         | Official Board              |
| Coffee Fellowship (April) | Finance Committee           |

**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: April 14<sup>th</sup>**. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: [treasurernuc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**“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. Email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto: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.

**NAME TAGS:** 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.

**GRACE BUCK INCOME TAX SERVICE** will be preparing Income Tax returns again this year at Northminster.  
Scheduled dates are: April 9 & April 23, 2024  
For further information please call 705-745-4303

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE & NEW MEMBERS** Hot Cross buns will be served in the Upper Wright Hall following the service.

