

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, March 9th, 2025 at 10 am

1st 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 Eternal Presence of the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU216 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

- 1 Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!
- 2 What God's almighty power hath made,
God's gracious mercy keepeth:
by morning glow or evening shade

God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
within the shelter of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

3 Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing;
as with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

4 Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in your God, my heart!
Both soul and body take your part:
to God all praise and glory! < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

All: Called into reflective journey of Lent.

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

All: Called to set our sights on Jerusalem and the transformative events of our faith history.

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.

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Psalm Selection: VU91

On Eagle's Wings

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my Rock in whom I trust.'

 'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
 bear you on the breath of dawn,
 make you to shine like the sun,
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge,
God's faithfulness your shield. R

- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. R

- 4 For to God's angels is given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'
'And hold you, hold you in the palm
of my hand.'

Young at Heart Time:

"Colby Learns a Lesson"

Hymn: VU114

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

- 1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.
- 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about your way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.
- 3 Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?
- 4 If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.
- 5 Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide. < >

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

Ruth Murray-Andrews

^{4:1} Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸ Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you”,

¹¹ and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered him, 'It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”' ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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:

“Tested”

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 Local Mission:

Read by Ruth Murray-Andrews

Alzheimer Society of Peterborough

Kawartha Lakes Northumberland and Haliburton

The Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advancing the search for the cause and cure.

The vision of the Society is a world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Their guiding principles are as follows:

1. **Personhood:** A standing or status that is bestowed upon one human being, by others, in the context of relationship and social being. Personhood implies recognition, respect and trust.

2. **Dignity and respect:** To create positive conditions where the person can live without fear of shame or ridicule; where people are treated with warmth and authenticity; listened to without judgment; and are given opportunity for self-determination and self-expression.
3. **Acceptance and understanding:** To accept each person with unconditional positive regard; to accept behaviour as a form of communication which expresses unmet needs or emotions; and to assist the person to continue to enjoy basic personal freedoms.
4. **Relationships:** To support and preserve present relationships; to support the person in the development of other positive relationships.
5. **Recognition and individuality:** To recognize the individuality of each person with their own unique life experiences, personality, values, beliefs and opinions; to have these factors respected and incorporated in support planning.
6. **Relationships of trust:** To provide the conditions necessary to satisfy fundamental needs and create a climate for personal realization by providing a relationship based on trust. In a relationship of trust, the person knows confidences are respected; choice and control is maintained; and the person will not be abandoned.

The significance of the Forget Me Not symbol

- The Alzheimer Society uses the Forget Me Not flower as a symbol to represent memory loss, one of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.
- The Forget Me Not is also a reminder to remember people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as their caregivers.
- The three flowers in the symbol represent the person with dementia, the caregiver and the Alzheimer Society.

The Alzheimer Society of Peterborough Kawartha Lakes Northumberland and Haliburton thanks you for your support.

Hymn: VU115

“Jesus, Tempted in the Desert”

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'
- 2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!'
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.'
- 3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!'
- 4 When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey. < >

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: VU672

“Take Time to Be Holy”

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
 abide in him always, and feed on his word.
 Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
 forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
 and run not before him, whatever betide.
 In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
 and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
 each thought and each motive beneath his control.
 Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
 you soon shall be fitted for service above. < >

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 9th

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Gerry Milburn
Greeters	Marion Milburn, Gale Osmond Carrie Varga
Scripture Reader	Ruth Murray-Andrews
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Al Bartholomew/Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond
Videographer	Ken Nash, John Taylor
Fellowship	Finance
Fellowship (Apr)	Mission & Outreach



~~Announcements~~

2024 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS that were not picked up have now been mailed.

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: TODAY ! March 9th**. 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 11th**, 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...

MARCH BREAK...Monday, March 10th to Friday, March 14th