

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

Organist: Nola Wilson

Sunday, November 27, 2022

1st Sunday in Advent & Communion

Music as We Gather

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.

Opening Hymn: VU02

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome, Introductions, Life, and Work of the Community

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Hope *Ken Nash/John Taylor*

One: Once more, we see the first candle of the Advent wreath lit. (The first purple candle is lit.)

All: It is a sign of hope that shines brightly into our hearts. It is a sign that the Holy One is present and that we are once more blessed.

One: Come let us worship and celebrate!

Let us sing verse 1 VU07

“Hope is a Star”

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Opening Prayer:

One: The earth has turned once more, Holy One. The season of hope, peace, joy, and love returns as a reminder of how we should live the whole year through.

All: You have called us to be your people, asking us to take your light out into the world.

One: Help us in our times of worship throughout this season of Advent to find the words to share the message of peace, hope, joy, and love. Remind us as we gather around your table, this morning, to celebrate our sacramental feast, that we will participate in a uniquely intimate moment of connection with you and each other.

All: Show us how to be fully aware of your presence in all its manifestations, so that we might share your presence with others even in the hectic busyness of this season. Hear us in the privacy of our own hearts as offer up to you our personal prayers for growth and rebirth... (Silent Prayer).

One: In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: In this season of preparation and waiting for the advent of Emmanuel, God-with-us, we trust in the love and grace of the Holy as we strive to follow the example and teachings of Jesus.

All: We are loved! We are forgiven! We are blessed!

One: Amen!

All: Amen!

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Cathy Underhill

^{2:1} The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Responsive Selection: VU845

Psalm 122

Led by Cathy Underhill

Refrain: With joy we go to God's own house and enter with a song.

One I was glad when they said to me:

All Let us go to the house of God.

One And now our feet are standing within your gates, O
Jerusalem.

All Jerusalem is built as a city bound firmly together.

One There the tribes go up, the tribes of God,
to give thanks to the name of God, as was decreed for
Israel.

**All There the thrones of justice stand,
the thrones of David's house. R**

One Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
May those who love you prosper!

**All May there be peace within your walls,
prosperity within your palaces!**

One For the sake of my kin and friends I say: Peace be with you!

**All For the sake of the house of our God,
I will seek your good. R**

Young at Heart Time:

"The Hope Stone"

Hymn: VU09

"People Look East"

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36-44

Cathy Underhill

^{24:36} “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history
that remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love
of the Advent season.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: ...Amen.

Meditation:

“Meet at the Gate”

Music for Meditation

The Creed

One: Let us stand as we are able and share 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

We Receive the Offering

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

The Sacrament of Communion:

Invitation to the Table

One With anticipation we come to this table, encountering the hope, peace, joy and love possible in all of us.

All We come to the table as brothers and sisters in faith.

Hymn: VU468 "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

- R Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. R
- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! R

Communion Liturgy

One As we gather the Divine is with us and within us. In the hope, peace, joy and love of this Advent Season. Lift up your hearts. Let our souls sing with praise to the Spirit of all Creation, who is at the centre of all. Let us give thanks to the Holy One, who is a part of us.

All For we are blessed.

One From the beginning, we called you Yahweh. Through the time of leaders and prophets, we called you Power.

All In the days of exile and captivity, we called you Ever-Present. In the room of gathered believers, we called you Celebration. In the years of forgetting the faith, we called you Patient.

One With a frightened young woman receiving a startling message, we called you Strength. In the age of recalling the promises, we called you Covenant.

All And today, we sense you within us and around us as Spirit.

One From the beginning and always, you are part of us and you are Holy. Many searched for you, and some found you.

All And through centuries of human witness, we received signs of your faithfulness to us. The powerful were shown humility; the oppressed found freedom and we accept you as part of what makes us truly human.

- One Therefore, we remember your promises as we await the stories of Mary and Joseph, the Wisemen, the infant in a manger, the shepherds and angels, the poor and dislocated, and all of us.
- All We raise shouts of joy as we are touched by the Spirit of Emmanuel and reminded of God's presence in each and every one of us. For in Jesus Christ, the symbol of the ever-present Divine is revealed awakening within us healing, freedom, forgiveness, justice.**
- One In the spirit of Christ let us pray for the needs of the whole world. We remember especially those whose lives are disrupted by forces beyond their control... We pray for peace and goodwill among the nations as we pray for Russia and Ukraine, North Korea, China, Somalia, Nigeria, Ethiopia... Let us pray for the earth, as it longs for the promise of new creation as we pray for the shrinking rainforest, sustainable energy, sources of clean water, safer methods of transporting flammable resources, changing climate and the resulting natural disasters... Let us remember all who are poor, hungry or cold as we remember our own disenfranchised who need The One Roof Diner and the Warming Room... all who are oppressed by circumstance or by other people... all who are sick or dying... all who are lonely or frightened. Lastly, let us remember all those who have gone before us, whose company and voices we miss, but who, as part of the indwelling presence of the Holy, still share this celebration with us. With them, we celebrate the hope and the mystery of this Advent Season.
- All Jesus, the Christ offers us wisdom.
Jesus, the Christ offers us example.
Jesus, the Christ offers us hope.
Jesus, the Christ challenges us into action.**

The Jesus Prayer (Paraphrase VU916):

- 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.**

The Passing of the Peace

One Peace be with you.
All **also with you.**

The Gift of Holy Presence

We have on this table, the common things of life- bread to break with each other and wine to quench our thirst. May they be for us as they have been for many, strength and faith, nourishment and hope, blessing and forgiveness. And may we who come to this table, know the presence of that which is beyond all our understanding and which yet resides within our own hearts.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

One We give thanks:
All **We receive gratefully the bread of life, source of strength and nourishment for the journey of life. As we seek to work free from our burdens, may this bread refresh us.**

One The Bread of Life, nourishment for heart and soul.
(the bread is broken)

The Lifting of the Cup

One Let us again give thanks:

All We receive gratefully, Blessed One, the cup of life. It can be bitter and it can be sweet, as life is filled with both joys and sorrows. Our hearts are gladdened as we face the mystery of life and living.

One The Cup of Blessing, renewal of hope and faith.
(the cup is raised)

The Distribution

Prayer after Communion

One The grace of the Christ's Spirit be with us all.

All May we experience in this symbolic act of faith, nourishment of spirit and transformation of heart and soul. Keep us firm in the hope that we shall live in the abiding promise of Emmanuel, God – with – us. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU711

“Sleepers, Wake”

- 1 'Sleepers, wake!' the watch are calling,
their notes from Zion's watchtower falling:
'Awake, awake, Jerusalem!
Midnight comes, no longer slumber,
nor let dull sleep your senses cumber.
Wise virgins, haste, or do you dream?
The bridegroom draweth near!
Arise, your lamps show clear. Hallelujah.
Yourselves array this marriage day
to meet the bridegroom on his way.'
- 2 Zion hears the sentries singing,
her heart within for joy is springing,
she wakes, she speeds with glad surprise.
For her God comes down all glorious,
in grace most strong, in truth victorious,
her light is come, her star doth rise.
Welcome! thou worthy crown,
Lord Jesus, God's dear Son, hosanna!
We join the throng that streams along
and fills thy banquet hall with song.

3 Let all creatures sound thy praises,
now earth its voice with heaven raises,
with harps' and cymbals' joyful tone.
Gates of pearl swing wide before us,
thy guests who join that blessed chorus
of angels that surround thy throne.
No eye hath seen, nor ear
was yet so blest to hear such rejoicing!
Henceforth may we eternally
sing hallelujahs unto thee.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place nourished, nurtured and
challenged affirming and sharing the hope, peace, joy, and
love of the Holy for creation and all the human family.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Good News and
anticipating the advent of Emmanuel, God-with-us.
Alleluia! Amen!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Music as We Depart

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 November 27, 2022

The United Church of Warsaw, Warsaw ON

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]



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, 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. Thank you for your generous support!

Next date: December 11th.

SHOP & SUPPORT FUNDRAISER *Extended*

Please have your orders ready by Sunday November 27th. Stock up on all your gift card needs for Christmas. Grab yourself some gas and grocery cards too! Take some extra order forms and ask your friends to support this fundraiser. Every purchase helps us raise money that will be used to purchase items from the United Church of Canada Giving Catalogue "Gifts with Vision" as well as support some local Peterborough charities.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque (to Northminster Sunday School) or e-transfer to cvarga@cogeco.ca (password 'Giftcards')

We expect to have the gift cards ready to distribute no later than Dec 4, so lots of time if you need to mail them to someone in time for Christmas.

See Maggie or Carrie if you have any questions or want to place an order.



"The Longest Night ~ A Blue Christmas" Service will be held on Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m. at Northminster United Church. A service designed to help people bridge the gap between feeling "blue" and entering into the joy of the Christmas Season.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY is December 4th. This is a special Christmas offering for Local Outreach. Envelopes are provided throughout the church. If you cannot find one, please ask a greeter. Donation envelopes can be placed on offering plate. Cheques payable to: "Northminster United Church" *marked for "White Gift"*.

BIBLE STUDY

SHEPHERDS TO ANGELS: A Look at Biblical Symbols of Christmas will be held on Wednesday, December 14th. 1 pm and 7 pm. There is a signup sheet located on the bulletin board beside Rev Kevin's office. Please indicate which time you prefer to attend.

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-November 27

Duty	<i>Jaymes Winch</i>
Elevator	<i>Paula Winch</i>
Greeters	<i>Carrie Varga, Debbie Kervin</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Cathy Underhill</i>
Lighting of Advent Wreath	<i>Ken Nash/John Taylor</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Jim Boothby</i>
Coffee Fellowship	<i>Ministry & Personnel</i>
Coffee Fellowship (Dec)	<i>Affirming Committee</i>