

A lit pink candle stands in the center, its flame bright against a dark background. Behind the candle is a window with a grid pattern, resembling stained glass, with some panes appearing broken or missing. The bottom of the image is decorated with a Christmas wreath featuring green pine needles and red and white flowers. The entire scene is framed by a thin pink border.

FILL US ALL WITH

Hope

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, November 28th, 2021

1st Sunday of Advent & Communion

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Birthday wishes to June McConnell [98]

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.

Advent Candle Lighting:

We Hope for Inclusion

One: As we gather on this first Sunday in the season of Advent, our hearts are full of hope.

All: Hope that there will be inclusion for all.

One: Hope that everyone who joins us will feel safe and welcome.

All: Hope that the Holy will continue to be present within, among and around us.

One: As worship begins, we light this first purple advent candle, in hope. (*The first purple candle is lit.*)

All: Amen.

One: Let us sing together **VU 7 vs. 1**

“Hope is a Star”

1 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

Words of Assurance:

One: May we sense and accept the presence of the Holy in this Advent Season.

All: We are encouraged to live and love creatively while expectantly waiting for the Word – Made – Flesh.

One: In the name of the expected One, Jesus, the Christ...

All: ...Amen.

Hymn: VU2

“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.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Lynda Hodgins

^{33:14} The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Responsive Psalm: VU752 (Refrain 1)

Psalm 25:1-10
Led by Lynda Hodgins

One: To you, O God, I lift my soul

All: to you, I lift my soul.

One: To you, O God, I lift my soul, in you I trust. Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

All: Let none who wait for you be shamed; let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.

One: Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

All: Lead me in your truth and teach me; for you are God my saviour. For you I wait all the day long.

One: To you, O God, I lift my soul

All: to you, I lift my soul.

One: Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love, for they are as old as time.

All: Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth. According to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O God!

One: To you, O God, I lift my soul

All: to you, I lift my soul.

One: You are upright and good, O God, therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

All: You guide the humble to do what is right, and teach the lowly your way.

One: All your ways are loving and sure

All: for those who keep your covenant and commandments.

One: To you, O God, I lift my soul

All: to you, I lift my soul.

Young at Heart Time:

"An Unexpected Leader"

Music for Meditation

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Lynda Hodgins

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what

is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you; this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history that prepare us for the coming of Emmanuel.

One: In the name of Jesus, the Christ...

All: ...Amen.

Hymn: VU473

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with awe and reverence stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to us approacheth
our full homage to demand.

- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high!

Meditation:

“Signposts”

The New Creed:

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

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.**

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Affirm Minute

Presented by John Taylor

Hymn: VU466

“Eat This Bread”

Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

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

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

Communion Liturgy

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.

For we are blessed.

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Russia, North Korea... 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... 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.

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

**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

Peace be with you.
And 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

We give thanks:

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.

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

The Lifting of the Cup

Let us again give thanks:

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.

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

The Distribution

Prayer after Communion

The grace of the Christ's Spirit be with us 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: 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: As our time together comes to an end...

**All: ...the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully
and love openly as we embrace the Hope, Peace, Joy
and Love of the Holy.**

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator
during this Advent Season, may we once again be

prepared for the coming of Emmanuel, God – with – us,
and all that means for the transformation of Creation.

All: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen and Amen!

Music as We Depart

Prayer Cycle

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle
for the week of November 28, 2021

Cold Springs Pastoral Charge
Camborne United Church, Camborne
Plainville United Church, Plainville
St. Paul's United Church, Cold Springs

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-Nov. 28th

Duty	<i>Jaymes Winch</i>
Elevator	<i>Paula Winch</i>
Contact Tracing Rep	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Daphne & Tom Arnott</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Lynda Hodgins</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin / Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Ken Nash, John Taylor</i>
Sunday School	<i>Maggie Crawford</i>
Lighting Advent Candles	<i>Maggie Crawford</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All Covid-19 protocols are still in place. Masks “must” be worn at all times, if you do not have a mask, we will provide one to you. Social distancing must be kept and hand sanitizer used.

If you are planning to attend the Sunday Worship Service, we ask that you pre-register on “Eventbrite” located on our website at www.northminsteruc.ca . Please call the church office if you have difficulties in doing so and we would be happy to do it for you.
705-748-4881 ***[leave a message if after office hours]***

“Proof of Vaccination” is required to enter the building, this includes for Worship services, weddings & funerals. **Proof of Vaccination will be checked every week, so please make sure to have your information with you.**

Attention Volunteers:

*** If you are a Sunday volunteer, i.e. Duty Person, Elevator Person, Usher, scripture reader, etc. Please register on “Eventbrite” Thank you!

“Worship Services” and “Prayer” videos continue weekly on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website: www.northminsteruc.ca

“Grief & Loss in a Time of Pandemic” meeting held in the Friendship Room at **2 pm.** on **Thursday**, December 9th.

AFFIRM MEETING will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at 1:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Tuesday, December 21st at 7 pm.

NEXT WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at 7 p.m.

THE MITTEN TREE: On Advent I, Sunday, November 28th, the mitten tree will be up in the Narthex waiting to be decorated with mittens, scarves, hats and socks. This year we are stressing the need for “adult” socks. These items will be delivered to area schools, to the children less fortunate and our homeless community. All donations are greatly accepted.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, Sunday, December 5th 2021. All donations from White Gift envelopes will support our Mission & Outreach program. We ask that any “gifts” donated NOT be wrapped. Organizations receiving the gifts do not like items pre-wrapped.

Sunday, December 26th, 1st Sunday after Christmas [aka Boxing Day] will be “**Virtual Service**” **ONLY**.