



NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Affirm United Celebration & World Communion Sunday

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.

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: The bright light of Jesus shines in this place.

**All: It shines with the brightness of a new day; enlivened,
and profoundly beautiful; bold with the promises of
God.**

One: We are God's people with hearts joined; celebrating all
that we are called to be together in Christ.

**All: We are here, and God is with us! Thanks be to God!
Amen!**

Opening Hymn: MV145

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side.

Draw the circle wide.

God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;

Nothing lost, but held forever,
In God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side.
Draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side.
Draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side.
Draw the circle wide.

Welcome, Introductions, Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Let us hear the call of the Holy.

All: Called to celebration! Called to affirmation! Called to the Holy Table!

One: Called to celebrate the love of the Holy present in all of the human family.

All: Alleluia!

One: Called to affirm that Northminster United Church in Peterborough is a safe space and community for all who choose, for whatever reason, to be here.

All: Alleluia!

One: Called to culminate our celebration and affirmation around the table of the Holy.

All: Alleluia!

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer:

One: Holy One, as we gather today, we do so with a celebration of diversity, community, and love. At the centre of our time together is the table, laid out for nourishment and nurture of body and spirit. As we raise our voices in prayer and praise, we raise our spirits in celebration of our Affirm United designation, gathering symbolically on this World Communion Sunday.

All: Let our hearts, minds, arms, and doors be open to your presence within all who enter this space, Holy Love, as we worship and reflect this day.

One: We celebrate with humility, Holy One, because we still have so much to learn and share as we continue our affirming journey. We will still experience hesitancy and uncertainty; nervousness and fear. Hear us in the privacy of our own hearts as we offer up to you our prayers for growth and rebirth... (Silent Prayer). We acknowledge our insecurities and uncertainties and trust in your presence to inspire, guide, and challenge us.

All: In the name of the all-inclusive Spirit of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy loves and cherishes each one of us for who we are and all that we may become.

All: With thanksgiving and praise we shout Alleluia! With thanksgiving and praise we shout Amen!

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Maureen Pickett

^{1:4} Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to
speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and
the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Music for Meditation:

“This is Me”

Young at Heart Time:

Presented by Ruth Wood

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:10-17

Carol VanTol

^{13:10} Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen

long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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 faith.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: ...Amen.

Meditation: "Through Another Lens" (*Presented by Ruth Wood*)

Music for Meditation: "Homeward Bound"

Affirm United Accreditation Presentation (*Julie van Haaften*)

Lighting the Affirm Candle:

One: The Rainbow is a sign of Hope and Promise.

All: God's full spectrum of light shines in each of us.

One: We are God's people, called to marvel at the beauty of God's creation; all of us, all people, worshiping God and praising God's holy name.

All: As we light this Rainbow candle for the first time in our community, we remember the dedication and commitment of the former Trinity United Church members who gifted us this candle prior to their disbanding. May it continue to shine as a beacon of safety and inclusion to all as it joins us here at Northminster on our continuing Affirm United journey. Thanks be to God!

One: Amen!

All: Amen!

Hymn: MV154

"Deep in Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
Justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling Creation that we are one.

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.**

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: MV138

“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body, and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
Turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body, and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

The Sacrament of Communion:



One: The Holy One be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts to the One who is love.

All: We open our hearts to you, O God, with our siblings in faith around the world.

One: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

All: For the One who gifts us with life, we give thanks.

One: We gather here, each a beloved miracle of Divine creation. God has given us so much: We have each other. We have beauty, and courage, and the capacity to dream. These precious lives of ours – so short and vulnerable – they are meant to be loved abundantly, rich in joy, meaning, and connection. We know, however, that human selfishness, arrogance, ignorance, and fear can work to suppress God's intentions in our lives. White supremacy, religious fanaticism, anti-LGBTQ2SIA oppression, sexism, genderism, racism, colonialism, and poverty work to strip individuals, communities, and the earth from the ability to survive and thrive. And so, the miracle that is life becomes a burden. People struggle with the will to live. We turn on each other. We hoard resources and numb ourselves to pain and desire. We lose touch with the power of God's love that illuminates and instigates possibilities for collective liberation.

For this reason, we turn to the Table.

All: At the Table, we feast on reminders of God's presence with us.

One: We taste. We eat. We feel.

All: We encounter Christ among us and within us.

One: Here, too, we remember all who go without food, without safety, and in search of belonging. We are made alive again, both to the pain and the pleasure of the world's aches and possibilities. We share together in a paraphrase of those familiar words...

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, Life Giver,

Source of all that is and 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 the 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 and the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

One: And so we turn to the table, prepared for an intimate encounter with the Holy within and around us.

All: The bread of life nourishes us for the work of justice. The cup of blessing revives and restores.

One: We do this in likeness with those who gathered with Jesus on the night of his arrest. In community, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said,

All: "This is my body which is given for you. Take, eat, and remember me."

One: After the meal, he did the same with the cup, saying,

All: "This is a symbol of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me."

One: In remembering the life and example of Jesus, we remember that the suffering of one of us belongs to all of us. And that our joy and celebration, our sorrow and pain, our fear and hope are entangled together.

And so, we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup in the name of you, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, Holy One. Through these gifts, renew our commitment to love you and each other. Gift us with a taste of your Reign that we might work to embody it this day and always. Amen.

All is now ready. Let us share the bounty of this table as we nourish body and spirit.

(Communion is Celebrated)

One: Let us pray. For the nurturing and nourishment of body and spirit we have received around this table, Holy One, we give you thanks and praise. May we be inspired to move out into the world sharing the love and community this sacrament symbolizes.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Find a Home Here”

Refrain:

*Find a home here,
live out faith here,
gather strength here,
find family here.
Be yourself here,
feel secure here,
celebrate here,
be at home here.*

1. The doors here are open wide all who venture by are welcome inside.
Honouring the gift of diversity with different ways of loving, different ways to be.
2. Committed to love's command people have discerned and taken a stand.
Prejudice and fear have gone on too long,
it's time for every person truly to belong.
3. Surrounded by those who care share the love of God in worship and prayer.
Trusting the support, letting go of doubt,
the opening is made for safely coming out.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place nourished, nurtured and challenged affirming and sharing the 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 of the Risen Christ.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

One: Let us go in peace.

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 October 2, 2022

Westdale United Church, Peterborough

[*East Central Ontario Regional Council*]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-Oct 2

Duty	<i>Jaymes Winch</i>
Elevator	<i>Paula Winch</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Carrie Varga, Pat & Alex Brunton Jim Boothby</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Carol VanTol, Maureen Pickett</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Kathy Common</i>
Coffee Fellowship	<i>Mission & Outreach Affirm Committees</i>
Pride Cakes	<i>made by Karla Buckborough</i>
Flowers	<i>from Maggie Crawford</i>

We would like to thank Ruth Wood and Julie van Haften for taking part in our worship service. A warm welcome to our visitors this morning.



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 in a separate envelope clearly marked with your name or envelope number and clearly marked "*Donation to Kawartha Food Share*" This can be placed on offering plate. Thank you for your generous support! Next date: October 9th.

NAME TAGS, we ask that you wear your name tags on Sundays, if you do not have a name tag, please contact the office. 705-748-4881.

The Peterborough Community Carol Sing will take place on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 2:30 pm in The Salvation Army Temple, Simcoe & Aylmer Streets, Peterborough. This is the first time that a live, in-person version of Carol Sing will be held since December 2019. The viability of this event will, of course, be subject to any change in Covid protocols. At this time, however, we are hopeful the event will go ahead as planned. Further details of the Carol Sing and posters will be circulated in due course.

2023 CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2023 calendar contains a small collection of some of our favorite Bible passages. Some comfort, some challenge, and all have inspired and helped us to seek God and God's wisdom in our daily lives. We hope they will do the same for you. Along with colourful photos of United Churches from across Canada, the calendar notes special days and church seasons, liturgical seasons and colours, significant United Church days, and lectionary dates. Cost: \$9.00
Deadline to place order: November 1st, 2022

TELECARE DISTRESS CENTRE OF PETERBOROUGH is looking for caring, empathetic listeners. Registration deadline for New Volunteers is **October 10th, 2022**. Training aims to develop listening skills and increase awareness of local social, emotional and psychological needs. Training involves online and independent activities. This course is open to potential volunteers and others interested in empathetic listening. For more detailed schedule information and to register go to www.telecarepeterborough.org .

HEALING FROM THE HEART WORKSHOP

To all United Churches in our area and to any interested in attending our workshop beyond this mailing (you are most welcome to attend).

We are excited to provide the **Phase 2 Workshop of Healing Pathway “Healing from the Heart”** at: Grace United Church (581 Howden St., Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 4B4)

Date: **Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5:** Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm (registration) & Saturday 9:00am - 5:00 pm.

We are excited to announce Sharon Moon and Howard Clark are our instructors for this event.

Prerequisite requirement: Phase 1 “Introduction Workshop”

Early bird fee and date to register for this reduction, or total cost for initial attendance, and refresher attendance fees are *all listed in the pamphlet*.

Please contact Tina Dyck to register for this event:

tinadyck461@gmail.com or phone: 705-917-1697

For additional information please contact:

Carol Allen.... lindsayrossallen@gmail.com or phone 705-745-2554.

Pamphlets are available from Michele at the office.