

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, October 03rd, 2021

Creation Time 4 in the Season of Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

The 50th Anniversary for Dave & Fran Morton

The 63rd Anniversary for Bob & Nancy Phillips

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.

Call to Worship:

One: Called to honour the faith connections that draw us around this table.

All: Through those connections, we are called to lend our voices to those who are silenced or ignored.

One: As we gather in this place in person and virtually...

All: ...let us worship.

One: Let us worship, together.

All: Let us worship the Holy. Amen.

Opening Hymn VU491

“O Perfect Love”

1 O perfect love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before your throne,

that theirs may be the love that knows no ending,
whom, now and evermore, you join in one.

2 O perfect life, be always their assurance
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears not pain nor death.

3 Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Young at Heart

"A Big Meal"

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: As we move through Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost...

All: ...we are encouraged to live creatively following the image of the Holy and the teachings of the Christ, knowing the presence of the Spirit within, among and around us.

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

All: ...Amen.

First Lesson: Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Bruce Newmaster

^{1:1} There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

^{2:1} One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ²The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you

incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.”⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.”⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”⁶ The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.”¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish person would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Psalm Selection: Psalm 26:

Bruce Newmaster

One: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

All: I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites; I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

One: I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O LORD, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

All: O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

One: But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

All: My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Music for Meditation

Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:2-16

Bruce Newmaster

10:2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"³ He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her."⁵ But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.⁶ But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'⁷ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,^[a]⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.¹¹ He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her;¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

One: As we live and love in the midst of Holy Creation...

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history and grasp the messages we can bring forth to transform today and tomorrow.

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

All: ...Amen.

Hymn: VU357

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

1 Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

2 First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,

all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

3 Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!

And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.

4 Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

5 Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Meditation:

"Connections"

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

A Minute for Mission: *“535 New Ministries Embrace the Spirit”*

There is no doubt that the church is in the midst of a radical transition. What does the future hold?

Honestly, no one knows for certain. But one thing is sure: The best way to fail is to try nothing, and the only way to succeed is to experiment by doing something new.

That’s where you come in. Your gifts through Mission & Service support innovation through our church’s Embracing the Spirit grants. Embracing the Spirit is a grant program supported by Mission & Service. Any church called by God to pursue a great ministry idea can apply to Embracing the Spirit for funding support. In the bottom right corner of the interactive Embracing the Spirit online map([opens in a new tab](#)), the number 535 is highlighted in bold red. The number, which refers to new ministry projects awarded grants, is steadily rising—535 is the tip of the iceberg. Since 2016, Embracing the Spirit has awarded over \$3,600,000 to help communities of faith develop new ministries.

Want to be inspired? Simply click one of the map pins and read the description. You will be amazed at the new ways congregations across the United Church are joining God’s mission. Take it a step further and connect with one that piques your interest. Learn about ways your community of faith can grow its vision and practice of ministry.

The last Embracing the Spirit granting round of 2021 is open now, and applications are due on October 15. Even if you don’t have a new ministry idea you want to pursue right now, by simply making a Mission & Service gift you are helping our United Church network with and support others striving to live out God’s mission in new ways. Thank you for giving good ideas a chance to fly.

Hymn: VU460

“All Who Hunger”

- 1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Sacrament of Communion:

Invitation to the Table

Communion Liturgy:

One: As we come together, the Holy is with us and we gather with our siblings in faith around the world and around this table. Let us lift up your hearts.

All: Our hearts sing with praise to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Eternal, who has come to us,

All: For God has remembered us and we are blessed.

One: From the beginning, you were Yahweh. Through the time of leaders and prophets, you were Jehovah.

All: In the days of exile and captivity, you were Compassion. In the room of gathered believers, you were Community. In the years of forgetting the faith, you were Patience.

One: In the age of recalling the promises, you were Forgiveness. From the beginning and always, you are God represented by many names – Yahweh, Jehovah, Blessed Love, Creator, Father, Mother and Holy Peace.

All: Many searched for you, and some found you and through centuries of human witness we received signs of your faithfulness to us. The powerful are brought low; the humble are exalted.

One: Therefore, we remember with our hearts full of thanksgiving and praise, the gift and blessing of your intimate presence in the elements we share. There are shouts of joy as we are filled by the Spirit of God in Christ and reminded of God's presence in each and every one of us.

All: For in Jesus Christ, grace enters the world blessing all creation with healing, freedom, forgiveness, and 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 especially the victims of a vicious hurricane and typhoon season, the on-going fight against COVID-19 and its variants, racial injustice, sexuality and gender oppression...

We pray for peace and goodwill among the nations, especially Iraq and Afghanistan, the European Union, Africa, the Middle East especially Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, Russia and the United States; North Korea and the rest of the world...

Let us pray for the earth, as it longs for the promise of God's new creation with sustainable and renewable energy resources, clear, pure water and breathable air. Let us pray for all those affected by climate change and the increasing severity of global weather...

Let us remember before the Holy all who are poor, hungry or cold...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 before God in our hearts those who have gone before us, whose company and voices we miss, but who, in the grace and goodness of God's mystery of life and death, still share this celebration with us. With them, and with the multitude of God's faithful of every time and place around the globe, we celebrate the hope and the mystery that is the good news.

**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:

One: Let us share together in a paraphrase of the Jesus Prayer...

**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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Preparation:

One: 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.

All: And may we who come to this table, knowing 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 of our burdens, may this bread refresh us.

One: The Bread of Life, nourishment for heart and soul.

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 Distribution

We will all partake together with the elements you collected as you were seated.

Prayer after Communion:

One: The grace of Jesus, the Christ be with us all. Let us pray,

All: Life-giving Creator, may we, who share this celebration of faith, live life renewed; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you dwell within us and all creation, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU215

“Hope of the World”

- 1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
- 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.
- 3 Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light;
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.
- 4 Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love your mercy gave us;
take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.
- 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign has conquered grief and pain,
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.

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 move through this time in Creation!**

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator, we hope to transform our world into one of compassion, acceptance, and equality as we share the grace of the Holy.

All: **In the name of Jesus, the Risen 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 October 3, 2021

Kingsview Pastoral Charge
Kingsview United Church, Oshawa

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS- Oct. 3/21

Duty	<i>Jaymes Winch</i>
Elevator	<i>Paula Winch</i>
Contact Tracing Rep	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Daphne Arnott</i> <i>Tom Arnott</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Bruce Newmaster</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill Van Tol</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin</i>
Videographer	<i>Kathy Common</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All Covid-19 protocols are still in place. Masks “must” be worn at all times, social distancing kept and hand sanitizer used.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on September 22, 2021, Ontario now requires patrons to provide proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to access certain businesses and settings. The [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act](#) provides information for businesses and organizations implementing this requirement.

***PLEASE NOTE: this **does not** apply to anyone attending the worship service.

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*]

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

We encourage everyone to bring a copy of their own bulletin. We will however have some copies available.

Telecare Distress Centre of Peterborough is recruiting new volunteers. "Applications are being accepted now. To apply please go to <http://www.telecarepeterborough.org/volunteer/> and fill in an application. Telecare Peterborough is a 24-hour distress line, listening to isolated, worried, lonely and overwhelmed people in our community. 50-hour training will be on-line from October 10 through November. In person (on-line) sessions will be held Monday and Thursday evenings, beginning October 14th. Cost is \$50. Subsidies are available. Once on-line training is completed, volunteers will be expected to work from our office. For more information, email Info@telecarepeterborough.org"

- Sunday School has started back. Please speak with Maggie Crawford if you have any questions or concerns.

- Sunday October 17, 2021 is our congregational meeting to take place immediately following the worship service, to discuss and vote on a motion supported by the Board, to make the application of Northminster United Church of Peterborough, Ontario to Affirm United to become an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. Please plan to attend this very important service.

“Grief & Loss in a Time of Pandemic”

Facilitators: Rev Kevin Derry & Nola Wilson held in the Friendship Room at **2 pm**. Must pre-register, **“Proof of Vaccination” passport** and limited to 14 participants.

The dates are as follows:

- Thursday, October 14th
- Thursday, October 28th
- Wednesday, November 10th
- Wednesday, November 24th
- Thursday, December 9th
- Thursday, January 6th
- Thursday, January 20th
- Thursday, February 3rd

Thanksgiving is a time of joyful celebration, yet also a time of reflection. As Thanksgiving approaches, it's time to reflect with gratitude on the blessings and bounty that you've received. While making your holiday plans and reflecting on all you have to be thankful for, it's also a good time to think about those who are less fortunate, and consider whether you can be of assistance to those who are in need.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10th, 2021 we are asking for “Local Outreach” donations that will be distributed to local organizations that are in need of financial aid. Your donation can be placed in an envelope marked, **“Local Outreach”** with your name or envelope number. *Thank you!*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 7 pm.

AFFIRMING MEETING will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 1:30 pm.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Tuesday, October 26th at 7 pm. * Please note this is a change.