

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Creation Time 3 in the Season of Pentecost

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Birthday wishes to Shirley Kay [91]

Birthday wishes to Marie Wasson [93]

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: The Spirit of Creation encourages us to nurture and care.

All: Called to nurture and care for all parts of creation.

One: Will we heed that call and encouragement?

All: Let us worship.

One: Let us worship, together.

All: Let us worship the Holy. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU232

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Ruth Murray

⁷ ¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶ Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20} Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Young at Heart Time:

"The Brave Queen"

Psalm Selection: VU848 (Refrain 1): Psalm 124

Ruth Murray

One: Our help comes form God

All: the maker of heaven and earth.

One: "If God had been at our side,"

All: now let Israel say:

One: "If God had not been at our side when mortals rose up against us,

All: then they would have swallowed us alive, when their fury was roused against us.

One: Then the flood would have swept us away, and the torrent would have covered us.

All: Then the raging waters would have gone right over our heads."

One: Our help comes from God

All: the maker of heaven and earth.

One: But praised be God; who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

All: We have escaped like a bird from the hunter's snare; the snare is broken and we are free.

One: Our help comes from God

All: the maker of heaven and earth.

Music for Meditation

Second Lesson: James 5:13-20

Ruth Murray

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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: VU678

“For the Healing of the Nations”

- 1 For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Meditation:

“Let Us Pray...”

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.

Hymn: VU400 (3x) “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Affirm Minute:

John Taylor

This past week marked the 19th year of celebrating Pride week in Peterborough. Unfortunately, like so many other events in our community, the Pride parade and other LGBTQ2S+ events have been cancelled. Some virtual events have been planned to help people connect, however it's not the same.

The theme of this year's Pride week is “Change Starts Here”. “It is a call to re-imagine ourselves, because change cannot happen until we open our hearts to it”, reads the news release.

Our faith community here at Northminster has been on a journey of change over the past few years. Part of re-imagining ourselves as a faith community is to be recognized as an affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada.

Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble is a proud partner of the United Church of Canada for the support, and welcoming, of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

In the near future, our congregation will be asked to vote to support the application of Northminster to Affirm United to become an affirming ministry within the United Church of Canada.

This time of re-imagining our ministry is an exciting time for Ken and me. We are honored to be part of this community of faith. Ken serves on the Board and I supply pastoral support for Kevin when he is away. The reason we do this is because our faith journey is important to us. Our relationship with you is important to us. You show us that our relationship is not only one of acceptance, but one of inclusion and respect. Thank you for that.

God loves all of us, and becoming an affirming congregation means that we welcome, respect and include ALL with open hearts, open minds and open doors.

In Jesus name. Amen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU509

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R

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 September 26, 2021

**Norwood-Westwood Pastoral Charge
Norwood United Church
St. Andrew's United Church**

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS
September 26, 2021

Duty	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Elevator	<i>Dave Sherwin</i>
Contact Tracing Rep	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Joan Findlay</i> <i>Pat Murduff</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Ruth Murray</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Alex Brunton</i>
Videographer	<i>John Taylor, Ken Nash</i>

Ways to Support Northminster United Church

Pre-Authorized Givings: contact church office

Donation by E-Transfer : Name: NUC

Treasurer Email: treasurernuc@gmail.com

Offering Envelope Giving: contact the church office

Cash or cheque: Cheques payable to
"Northminster United Church"

Click on for link: CanadaHelp.org

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Church office email: info@northminsteruc.ca

Rev. Kevin Derry email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

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.

The Affirming Committee is looking for one more member to join the group. If you are interested, please contact Michele at the office.

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 is starting back up this Sunday, September 26th. Please speak with Maggie Crawford if you have any questions or concerns.
- Sunday, October 17th 2021 is our Congregational meeting, immediately following worship service to discuss the "Affirming" statis. Please plan to stay.

"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 at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, October 28th at 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 10th at 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 24th at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, December 9th at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, January 6th at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, January 20th at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, February 3rd at 2:00 pm

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!*