

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, September 15th, 2024 at 10 am

Creation Time 2

Music as We Gather

Welcome

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.

Music as We Centre

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Honouring the Persistence of the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU561

“Take Up Your Cross”

- 1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.
- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
- 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel;

your Saviour once accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

- 4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown. < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to honour the Spirit of Creation.

All: Called to be strong in faith.

One: The Holy calls us to move within the Spirit of Creation.

All: Called to be persistent in faith.

One: The Holy calls us to respond to the Spirit of Creation.

All: Called to be confident in faith.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The promise of the Source of all Creation is that we are
never abandoned or separated from the One who created
us.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, we
can be a transformative presence in Creation.**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Carrie Varga

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Please remain seated

Psalm Selection: VU740 (Refrain 2)

(from Psalm19)
Led by Carrie Varga

Psalm 19

Refrain 2

Geoffrey Shaw

Unison

Glo - ry and praise to God whose word brings life!

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One The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

**All One day speaks to another,
and night shares its knowledge with night,**

One and this without speech or language;
their voices are not heard.

**All But their sound goes out to all the lands,
their words to the ends of the earth. R**

One In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,
like an athlete eager to run the race.

**All Its rising is at one end of the sky,
it runs its course to the other,
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat. R**

One God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;

**All God's instruction is sure,
giving wisdom to the simple;**

One God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

**All God's commandment is pure
giving light to the eyes;**

One God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

**All God's judgements are true,
every one of them righteous;**

One more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

**All sweeter also than honey,
pure honey from the comb. R**

One By them is your servant warned;

All for in keeping them there is great reward.

One But who can discern unwitting sins?

All O cleanse me from my secret faults.

One Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me.

Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence. R

**All Let the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O God,
my strength and my redeemer. < >**

Hymn: VU497

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

1 Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

2 Though, like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

- 3 There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
 all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
 angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee;
 nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
- 4 Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
 out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
 so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee;
 nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
- 5 Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
 sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
 still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
 nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! < >

Young at Heart Time:

"More Than Letters"

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38

Carrie Varga

^{8:27} Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹ He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the

Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Responses:

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 by the Source of all Creation.

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

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"Uncomfortable Truth"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for the New Creed

The New Creed

One: Let us join together 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. Amen.**

Please be seated

Hymn: VU567

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me. < >

We Receive the Offering

Please stand for Offering Hymn

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

Minute for Mission:

"Moments of Connection"
Read by Carrie Varga

Have you ever stepped into a forest surrounded by birds chirping, insects calling, and leaves rustling in the wind? The leaders at Mission and Service partner Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville, ON, are encouraging children to leave the hustle and bustle behind to enjoy moments of connection with nature and each other.

Nestled right on the Niagara Escarpment, the joyful sounds of children discovering and playing echo throughout the campgrounds. "I found a salamander!" someone exclaims as other campers rush over to see. Something as simple as "Look at this cool rock!" draws laughter and excitement. These moments of connection are powerful, allowing everyone to be present and supportive.

In such a peaceful setting, the beauty of nature reminds children of the simple joys of friendship and gratitude. This experience can inspire a deep appreciation for the earth and a desire to take care of it. Children make music, worship, explore creativity through art, challenge themselves, and connect with others, all together in nature.

Your support of Mission and Service allows children to continue connecting in nature at United Church camps. Thank you.

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU657

“He Leadeth Me”

- 1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
- R He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!
- 2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. R
- 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. R
- 4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. R < >

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place honouring the Source of all Creation.

All: We go in celebration.

One: Let us go from this place cherishing the gift of Creation.

All: We go in love.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the gift of Creation.

All: We go in hope and peace.

One: Let us go from this place healing the gift of Creation. Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing:

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will be with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching you with love;
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. < >

Music as the Worship Service Concludes

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 September 15, 2024

Udora United Church

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Sept 15

Duty	Dave Thom
Elevator	Carrie Varga
Greeters	Kathy Thom, Judy Henderson Fran Morton, Bruce Newmaster
Scripture Reader	Carrie Varga
Minutes for Mission	Carrie Varga
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Alex Brunton/Al Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common
Coffee Fellowship	Worship Committee

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, there is a line provided on the offering envelopes. ***Please make cheques payable to: "Northminster United Church"***. This can be placed on the offering plate.

Next date: October 13th. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer:
treasurernuc@gmail.com

OUR NURSERY FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN is along the main corridor across from the kitchen.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ... please contact Michele in the office to let her know you require offering envelopes. Email: info@northminsteruc.ca or Tel. # 705-748-4881.

NAME TAGS: If you need a name tag, please contact the office. I would be happy to make you one. Also stick on name tags are available, located on the table at the back of the church and on table at west entrance into Sanctuary.

PASTORAL CARE: If you know someone that is in the hospital that we should know about, please call the office and let us know. The hospital does not notify us & there is no longer access to a church list. If calling the church after hours, please leave a message 705-748-4881. Please keep in mind, we all need to take care of each other.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...Church Photo Directory, October 7th to 11th. See Al Bartholomew for further details.

LOST & FOUND:

There are 2 "light weight" jackets that have been left behind. They have all been here for quite some time. If you or someone you know has lost a jacket, please check them out. They are located on the coat rack by the elevator. If they aren't claimed by end of September, we will donate them to charity.

A new Volunteer Schedule List is being prepared and will be available soon. If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to know. It is never too late.....

If you are not on our weekly email list and would like to be, please let us know by sending us an email to: info@northminsteruc.ca