

# NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 10 am

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*Creation Time 4*

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## 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 Faithful Courage

*Please stand for the Opening Hymn*

**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. < >

## **Life, and Work of the Community**

### **Call to Worship:**

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

**All: Called to live with courage.**

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

**All: Called to share with courage.**

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

**All: Called to love with courage.**

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

*Wanda Taylor-Kelly*

<sup>7:1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> 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.' <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.' <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' <sup>6</sup> Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

<sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> 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, <sup>22</sup> 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.

**Psalm Selection: VU848** (from Psalm 124) *Wanda Taylor-Kelly*

**Refrain: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.**

One 'If God had not 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.' R**

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. R**

**Hymn: VU582**

“There’s a Spirit in the Air”

1 There's a spirit in the air,  
telling Christians everywhere:  
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.'

2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,  
tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!

3 When believers break the bread,  
when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.

4 Still the Spirit gives us light,  
seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!

5 When a stranger's not alone,  
where the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world

6 May the Spirit fill our praise,  
guide our thoughts and change our ways.  
God in Christ has come to stay,  
live tomorrow's life today.

7 There's a Spirit in the air,  
calling people everywhere:  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world. < >

**Young at Heart Time:**

*“Esther’s Plan”*

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 9:38-50

*Wanda Taylor-Kelly*

<sup>9:38</sup> John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> ‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> ‘For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’

**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:**

*“Harsh Guidance”*

**Music for Meditation**

## 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: VU334**

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

- 1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,
- R and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.
- 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race  
now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace R
- 3 Crown him, you martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call;  
praise him whose way of pain you trod, R

- 4 Let every tongue and every tribe,  
responsive to the call,  
to him all majesty ascribe R
- 5 O that, with all the sacred throng,  
we at his feet may fall,  
join in the everlasting song,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all. < >

### **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**

#### **Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer**

*Please stand for Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU489** "When Love is Found"

- 1 When love is found and hope comes home,  
sing and be glad that two are one.  
When love explodes and fills the sky,  
praise God and share our Maker's joy.
- 2 When love has flowered in trust and care,  
build both each day, that love may dare  
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,  
to serve and strive for truth and right.
- 3 When love is tried as loved-ones change,  
hold still to hope, though all seems strange,  
till ease returns and love grows wise  
through listening ears and opened eyes.
- 4 When love is torn, and trust betrayed,  
pray strength to love till torments fade,  
till lovers keep no score of wrong,  
but hear through pain love's Easter song.

5 Praise God for love, praise God for life,  
in age or youth, in calm or strife.  
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed  
through death and life in broken bread. < >

**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 29, 2024

**St. Andrew's By-The-Lake**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*



***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Sept 29***

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Gerry Milburn
Greeters	Marion Milburn, Gale Osmond
Scripture Reader	Wanda Taylor-Kelly
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Alex Brunton/AI Bartholomew
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
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 13<sup>th</sup>**. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: [treasurernuc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. See Al Bartholomew for further details.

**LOST & FOUND:**

There is a black "light weight" jacket that has been left behind. 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. We also have umbrellas that have been left behind.

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS** 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](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

**TELECARE DISTRESS CENTRE OF PETERBOROUGH** is recruiting telephone volunteers. Telecare offers non-judgemental active listening to worried, overwhelmed and lonely callers. For information about volunteer training and to apply, please visit [www.telecarepeterborough.org](http://www.telecarepeterborough.org). The next 50 hour training for new volunteers begins October 3rd, 2024.

Announcement deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday mornings. If you have an announcement you want placed in the bulletin, please "email" your submission to [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

**GRIEF GROUP** Beginning Wednesday, October 2, 2024 to November 6, 2024 [*6 consecutive Wednesdays*] at 10:30 am to 12 noon, Rev Kevin Derry is leading a Grief Group. Please let us know if you plan on attending.

**TRUSTEES MEETING** on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. In Upper Wright Hall.

**INTRO TO BIBLE STUDY** on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Friendship Room.