

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 10 am

First Sunday after Christmas

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 Holy Gift of the
Christmas Season

Please stand for Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU62

“Once in Royal David’s City”

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

- 3 For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone. < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us into the Spirit of Emmanuel.

All: Called to worship.

One: We are called to transform ourselves and our community.

All: Called to faith-filled living.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The promise of the Christmas Season is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, in the Spirit of Emmanuel, we can live faithfully and authentically as children of the Holy.

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Gord James

^{2:18} Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Psalm 148

Refrain

*Jakob Hintze 1678; harm. J. S. Bach
as in Hymns Ancient and Modern 1861*

Let the whole crea - a - tion cry,
"Glo - ry be to God on high."

Refrain: Let the whole creation cry, "Glory be to God on high."

One Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!
Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**All Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!
Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters beyond
heaven! R**

One Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command
they were created, who established them for all time, setting
bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and
ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and frost, gales
that obey God's decree,**

One all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

**All sovereigns who rule earth and its people,
all who govern and judge this world, young men and
women alike, old people and children together! R**

One Let all things praise the name of God,
the name above every other,
whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**All You give strength to your people, songs of praise to
your faithful, to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R**

Hymn: VU73

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

R He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.

2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R

3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R < >

Young at Heart Time:

“Small Packages”

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

Gord James

^{2:41} Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were

amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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 Spirit of the Holy.

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

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"Temple Talk"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for The New Creed

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.**

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We Receive the Offering

Doxology: VU542

“We Give You But Your Own”

We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully. < >

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn: VU58

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!

2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till
the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you! < >

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer:

(VU916, A Paraphrase)

**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.

Please stand for Closing hymn

Closing Hymn: VU70 "There's a Star in the East"

1 There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

*Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the Star of Bethlehem,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

2 If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow,
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
rise up, shepherd, and follow. R < >

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place with hope and celebration.

All: Let us go from this place with peace and compassion.

One: Let us go from this place with joy and celebration.

All: Let us go from this place with love and inclusion.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

All: Amen.

Sung Blessing: VU964 "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go. < >

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 December 29, 2024

Adolphustown/Conway Pastoral Charge

**Adolphustown United Church
Conway United Church**

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 29

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Duty | John Tewsley |
| Elevator | Wayne Doherty |
| Greeters | Ann Thomas, Kathy Common Dave Underhill |
| Scripture Reader | Gord James |
| Congregational Elder | Mary Hess Northey |
| Sunday School Coordinator | Maggie Crawford |
| Nursery Coordinator | Gale Osmond |
| Sound | Al & Lynn Bartholomew |
| Video | Nelson Pickett |
| Videographer | Jim Boothby |

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: January 13th . We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: treasureernuc@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.

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

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.

Happy
&
New Year