

## **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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**Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry**

Email: [minister@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:minister@northminsteruc.ca)

**Music Director: Dustin Bowers**

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 10 am**

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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### **Music as We Gather**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Acknowledgement of the Land:**

As we gather, we acknowledge that Northminster United Church and the communities it serves 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 Love of the Holy

*Please stand for Opening Hymn*

**Opening Hymn: VU220** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;  
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health  
and salvation.

Come, all who hear:  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,  
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
how all you needed has been  
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work  
and defend us;  
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who out of love will befriend us.

- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:  
gladly with praise we adore him. < >

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

### **Call to Worship:**

One: The Holy calls us to gather together.

**All: Called to honour and celebrate the Holy power of Love.**

One: We are called to open ourselves to the Holy.

**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 Epiphany Season is the ever-present  
Light of the Holy.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, as we  
find ourselves in the Light of Epiphany, we can live  
faithfully and authentically as children of the Holy.**

**First Lesson:** Jeremiah 1:4-10

*Joyce Armstrong*

<sup>1:4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak,  
for I am only a boy.' <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord.'

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and  
the Lord said to me,

'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.'

### Psalm Selection: VU789 part 1

(from Psalm 71)

Led by Joyce Armstrong

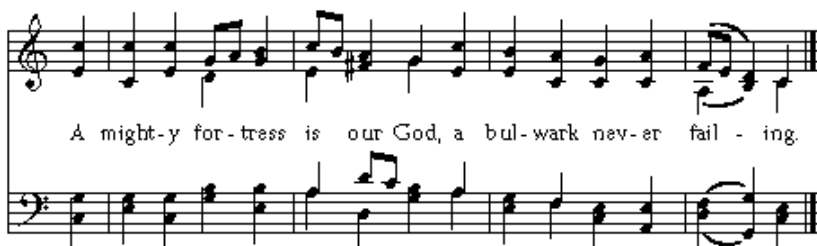
Part One (1-6)

### Psalm 71

Refrain

Martin Luther 1529

harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth 1930



A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail - ing.

**Refrain: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.**

One In you, O God, I seek refuge; may I never be disappointed.

**All In your righteousness, save and rescue me;  
incline your ear and deliver me.**

One Be a sheltering rock for me,  
a fortress where I may find safety;

**All for you are my rock and my stronghold.**

One Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

**All For you are my hope, my trust from my youth;  
from the time of my birth I have leaned on you. R**

**Hymn: VU289**

“It Only Takes a Spark”

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:  
that's how it is with God's love,  
once you've experienced it:  
you spread God's love to everyone,  
you want to pass it on.
- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees  
are budding,  
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;  
that's how it is with God's love,  
once you've experienced it:  
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,  
you want to pass it on.
- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -  
on God you can depend, it matters not where  
you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountain top;  
I want my world to know:  
the Lord of love has come to me,  
I want to pass it on. < >

**Young at Heart Time:**

“Chosen One”

**Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13***Joyce Armstrong*

<sup>13:1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in

part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## 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:

*“Greatest of These”*

## Music for Meditation

*Please stand for the New Creed*

## The New Creed

VU918

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.**

## **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**

**A Minute for Mission:**

*Read by Joyce Armstrong  
“Supporting Community Resilience in Zimbabwe”*

In Zimbabwe, severe drought and food shortages continue to take a toll on communities, but the Zimbabwe Council of Churches is leading efforts to provide support. In partnership with Mission and Service and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Scaling Up Resilience Project focuses on practical, long-term solutions. By emphasizing climate-smart farming, gender equality, and community-driven initiatives, the project is helping families strengthen their resilience and work towards a more secure future.

The challenges facing Zimbabwe are immense, with frequent droughts, unpredictable rains, tropical cyclones, economic instability, and outbreaks of diseases like cholera all contributing to severe food insecurity. In the Bikita and Gutu districts, up to 60% of people are affected, with many families struggling to put food on the table, send their children to school, and are at risk of gender-based violence. Crop failures, especially due to El Niño, have worsened conditions, leaving communities in urgent need of solutions.

The Scaling Up Resilience Program addresses these issues by building on the success of previous humanitarian efforts. It will provide training in gender-sensitive, climate-smart agriculture, strengthen disaster risk management systems, and revive essential community assets, such as water conservation works and irrigation schemes. By promoting gender equality, supporting financial resilience through savings and loans programs, and ensuring that all community members, including the elderly and those with disabilities, are included, the project is creating a brighter future for thousands of people.

Your gifts through [Mission and Service](#) (opens in a new tab) have provided crucial support to partners like the Zimbabwe Council of Churches as they work toward a secure and sustainable future. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

**Hymn: VU367**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

- 1      Come down, O love divine,  
        seek now this soul of mine,  
                and visit it with your own ardour glowing.  
        O Comforter, draw near,  
        within my heart appear,  
                and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
  
- 2      O let it freely burn,  
        till earthly passions turn  
                to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
        and let your glorious light  
        shine ever on my sight,  
                and clothe me round, my onward path illuming.
  
- 3      And so the yearning strong  
        with which the soul will long  
                shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
        for none can guess its grace,  
        till love creates the place  
                wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling. < >

**Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer**

*Please stand for the Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU602**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

- 1      Blest be the tie that binds  
        our hearts in Christian love;  
        the unity of heart and mind  
        is like to that above.
  
- 2      Before our Maker's throne  
        we pour our ardent prayers;  
        our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
        our comforts and our cares.
  
- 3      We share each other's woes,  
        each other's burdens bear;

and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

- 4 This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.< >

**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 love and inclusion.**

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Light of Epiphany.  
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**

***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>***

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Dave Underhill
Greeters	Al & Marg Renwick
	Jim Boothby
Scripture Reader	Joyce Armstrong
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Jim Boothby
Fellowship	Affirm Ministry
Fellowship (Mar)	Finance



## 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: Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>**. We also accept eTransfers to: [treasurenuc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurenuc@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.

**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.

**GRACE BUCK INCOME TAX SERVICE** will be preparing Income Tax returns again this year at Northminster. Scheduled dates: March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and April 22<sup>nd</sup>. For further information please call 705-745-4303

### **DESSERT SUNDAY!**

February 16<sup>th</sup> following Worship service. Please join us for a late Valentine Celebration. Free will donations will be appreciated.



**Are you interested in going on a Day Tour(s)??** There has been an overwhelming response from people to take more than one tour. In order to do this we need to be able to fill a tour bus. Please indicate by signing your name on as many tours as you are interested in. Please consider inviting family members, friends & neighbours to join.

**The deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

- CirQue Du Soleil
- Kingston 1000 Island Cruise (Boldt & Singer Castle)
- Muskoka Steamships-Ship & Show

*Family & friends are welcome!*

