

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10 am

Baptism of the Lord

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 Inclusion and Acceptance

Please stand for Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU806

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

- 2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home. < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to gather at the River Jordan.

All: Called to witness the Baptism of Jesus.

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: Isaiah 43:1-7

Fran Morton

^{43:1} But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
 I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
 4 Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,
 I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
 5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
 and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
 bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
 7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.'

Psalm Selection: VU755-56

(from Psalm 29)
Led by Fran Morton

Psalm 29

Refrain

Winnagene Hatch 1994

Unison

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to our God!

Music copyright © 1994 Winnagene Hatch

Refrain: Glory, glory, glory to our God!

One Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,
 ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**All Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,
 and worship in the beauty of holiness. R**

One God's voice is over the waters -
 God's glory thundering across the great waters.

All God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.

One God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**All God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

One God's voice forks into tongues of fire,
God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**All God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory! R**

One God sits enthroned above the waters,

All God is enthroned as sovereign forever.

One You give strength to your people, O God.

All Now give to your people the blessing of peace. R

Hymn: VU20

“On Jordan’s Bank”

- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore. < >

Young at Heart Time:

“Water Trough”

^{3:15} As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Response:

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:

"Beginnings"

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.

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

Minute for Local Mission:

"Five Counties Children's Centre"

Read by Fran Morton

Five Counties Children's Centre helps children with physical, communication and developmental needs. We work with children and adolescents, along with their families and the community, to strengthen their abilities and promote their participation as active members of the community.

At the Centre we have a team approach; the family is the key member of this team. This family-centred approach provides quality service in a supportive environment. For more information, please review our Family Centred Care Principles.

In 2025, Five Counties Children's Centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary of opening its doors to support kids, youth and families in our region.

Hymn: VU29

"Hark! The Glad Sound"

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name. < >

Prayers of the People and Jesus Prayer:

A Paraphrase

**All Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that 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 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 of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU606

“In Christ There is No East or West”

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth. < >

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 Jan 12

Duty	Nelson Pickett
Elevator	Wayne Doherty
Greeters	Carol Doherty, Wayne Ferguson Carrie Varga
Scripture Reader	Fran Morton
Congregational Elder	Mary Hess Northey
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Nursery Coordinator	Gale Osmond
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 19th is “Soup Sunday”. Please join us in the Upper Wright Hall following the Worship Service. A sign-up sheet is on

bulletin board for:

- Soup makers/servers
- Desserts/sweets
- Clean up

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 12th. We also accept Interac eTransfers to:
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 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.