

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, May 17th, 2026 at 10 am

7th Sunday of Easter

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 several Indigenous peoples. 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:

Celebrating the Unity Present in the Spirit of Christ

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU217 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
sing praises, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4 And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part:
sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! †

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Called to come together through the Spirit of Christ.

All: Hallelujah! The stone is moved!

One: Called to be welcoming to all who would wish to join us.

All: Hallelujah! The tomb is empty!

One: Called to share an Easter faith as children of the Holy.

All: Hallelujah! Jesus is risen!

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The empty tomb symbolizes the resurrection miracle we all strive for.

All: Through faith and action, we share the resurrection miracle.

First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

Carolyn Kitchen

^{1:6} So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Responsive Selection: VU787

(from Psalm 68)

Lead by Carolyn Kitchen

Refrain: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

One Arise, O God, and let your enemies be scattered;
let those who hate you flee before you.

**All Like drifting smoke disperse them;
like wax melting in the fire,
let the wicked perish at your presence, O God.**

One But let the righteous be glad and exult before you;
let them rejoice with exceeding joy.

**All Sing praises to God's holy name;
make a highway for the One who rides the clouds;
be joyful and exult in God's presence. R**

One Guardian of orphans, protector of widows,
O God, in your holy dwelling,

**All you give the lonely a home in which to live;
you lead the prisoners out to prosperity;
but the rebels must live in a wasteland.**

One When you went out at the head of your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

**All the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
before you, God of Sinai, God of Israel.**

One You sent down a generous rain;
you refreshed your heritage when it languished.

**All There your people found a home,
which in your goodness you provided for the poor. R**

One Sing to God, dominions of the earth;
praise the One who has dominion,

**All the One who rides through the heavens,
even the primal heavens,
the One whose voice is the mighty thunder.**

One Acknowledge the power that is God's,
whose majesty is over Israel, whose strength is in the skies.

**All You are awesome, O God, as you leave your sanctuary,
bringing power and strength to your people.**

One Blessed are you, God of Israel.

All Blessed are you. R

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. †

Young at Heart Time:

“Flight Path”

Gospel Lesson: John 17:1-11

Carolyn Kitchen

17:1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Response:

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...

**All: ...may we enter into the stories we hear,
experiencing the Word of the Holy.**

Reader: In the name of the Risen Jesus...

All: ...Amen.

Meditation:

“Community”

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: VU540

"Grant Us, God, the Grace"

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully. †

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn: VU158

"Christ is Alive"

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

- 3 In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise. †

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 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.**

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU336 "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

- 1 Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day. †

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place with the joy of the empty tomb.

All: We go in celebration.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the new life offered in
the resurrected Christ.

All: We go in love.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the good news offered in
the resurrected Christ.

All: We go in hope and peace.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing: VU963 "May the Grace of Christ Attend Us"

May the grace of Christ attend us,
and the love of God surround us,
and the Holy Spirit keep us,
now and ever. Amen. †

Music as the Worship Service Concludes

East Central Ontario 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 May 17th, 2026

Enniskillen Tyrone United Church

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for May 17, 2026

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Jack Murduff
Greeters	Carol Murduff, Bruce Newmaster Dave Underhill
Scripture Reader	Carolyn Kitchen
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Christian Education

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US FOR COFFEE TIME each Tuesday morning at 10 am. at Northminster United Church in Upper Wright Hall for a warm cup of coffee or tea and a sweet treat. Please bring a friend!!

FOOD BANK SUNDAY- is held on the **2nd Sunday of each month**, - **June 14th** we invite you to bring items to support Kawartha Food Share. Boxes are located in the Sanctuary and at back foyer [*exit to parking lot*]. If you wish to make a cash donation instead, ***please make your cheque payable to: "Northminster United Church"***. This can be placed on the offering plate.

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH PLAN

Church Members are invited to a group discussion each Sunday at 11:30 am.

MUFFIN PARTY on Saturday, May 23rd, 2026 at 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Admission is \$5.00 Frozen Entrees & Soups, baking, crafts & plants will be available for purchase. Come out and enjoy muffins and fellowship

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OPEN HOUSE - May 26th

Please join us for the Northminster United Church Open House on Tuesday, May 26 from 7 to 9 pm in Upper Wright Hall. Here's a chance for us to open the doors and welcome our neighbours into conversation about the future of the church. Everyone is welcome. If you can help with greeting guests or set up, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the hall.

KAWARTHA CHAMBER MUSIC COLLECTIVE - June 13th

The Kawartha Chamber Music Collective will be performing at Northminster United Church on Saturday, June 13 at 7 pm. This is a fundraising activity for the church and for the musicians, so please lend your support and join us for an evening of beautiful classic music!