

**NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Organist: Justin Hiscox

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10 am

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*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter/Children's Aid Society Presentation*

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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 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.

**Congregational Meeting for Trustee Changes**

**Music as We Centre**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Celebrating the Surprises of the Risen Christ

*Please stand for the Opening Hymn*

**Opening Hymn: VU183**

"We Meet You, O Christ"

- 1 We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;  
your image we see in simple and wise.  
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.
  
- 2 In millions alive, away and abroad;  
involved in our life you live down the road.  
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.  
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

3 We hear you, O Man, in agony cry.  
For freedom you march, in riots you die.  
Your face in the papers we read and we see.  
The tree must be planted by human decree.

4 You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.  
Your death is your rising, creative your word:  
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored. †

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

#### **Call to Worship:**

One: Called to be surprised by the Spirit of the Risen Christ.

**All: Hallelujah! The stone is moved!**

One: Called to encounter the Holy in unexpected places.

**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.**

### **Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society Foster Parenting**

**Presentation:** Presented by Barb Reay and Vicky McPhail

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 24:13-27

*Karen Strano*

<sup>24:13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who

was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

**Hymn: VU345**

“Come, Children, Join to Sing”

- 1 Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!  
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!  
Let all with heart and voice,  
saved by God's gracious choice,  
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!
  
- 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!  
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!  
Christ calls his people friends,  
the helpless he defends,  
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!
  
- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!  
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
The whole creation o'er  
let all God's love adore,  
singing for evermore: Hallelujah! †

**Young at Heart Time:**

“Travel Plans”

**Gospel Lesson** (con'd): Luke 24:28-35

*Karen Strano*

<sup>24:28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread,

blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**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.**

**Homily:** *"Heart Song"*

**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: VU190**

“The Head that Once was Crowned”

- 1 The head that once was crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now;  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty victor's brow.
- 2 The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love  
and grants his name to know.
- 3 To them the cross, with all its shame,  
with all its grace, is given,  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heaven.
- 4 They suffer here with Christ below,  
they reign with him above,  
their profit and their joy to know  
the mystery of his love.
- 5 The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him,  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme. †

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

VU916

**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.** *A Paraphrase*

*Please stand for the Closing Hymn*

**Closing Hymn: VU371** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
 place in my hands the wonderful key  
 that shall unclasp and set me free.  
     Silently now I wait for thee,  
     ready, my God, thy will to see.  
     Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
  
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
 voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
 and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
 everything false will disappear.  
     Silently now I wait for thee,  
     ready, my God, thy will to see.  
     Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
  
- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear  
 gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
 open my heart and let me prepare  
 love with thy children thus to share.  
     Silently now I wait for thee,  
     ready, my God, thy will to see.  
     Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine! †

**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 April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Stockdale United Church, Frankford**

**Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for April 19, 2026**

Duty	Nelson Pickett
Elevator	Carrie Varga
Greeters	Leanne Brinklow, Al Bartholomew
	Wayne Ferguson
Scripture Reader	Karen Strano
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Affirm Committee

**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!!  
\*Bring your craft (i.e. knitting, crocheting, rug hooking, embroidery etc) to work on while you visit.

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**- is held on the **2nd Sunday of each month**, - **April 12<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**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.

### **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH PLAN**

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

**SPRING LUNCHEON** on **Sunday, April 26, 2026** following the worship service. This is a free will offering event.

