

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, June 21st, 2026 at 10 am

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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 Eternal Welcome of the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU240 "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!
- 2 Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,

slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

- 3 Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.
- 5 Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace! †

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Do we welcome people or push them away?

All: God calls us to open our hearts and community.

One: Do people feel they are valued for who they are, not who we expect them to be?

All: God calls us to meet people where, and who, they are.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The holy winds of Pentecost encourage us to reflect and act in faith.

All: Through faith and action, we share the blessing of transformation through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

First Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

Joyce Armstrong

^{21:8} The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Responsive Selection: VU803

(from Psalm 86)

Lead by Joyce Armstrong

**R In the day of my trouble
 I call unto you for you will answer me.**

One Turn your ear to me, O God, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

**All Preserve my life for I am faithful;
 save your servant for I trust in you.**

One Be merciful to me, my lord, for I call to you all day long.

**All Gladden the heart of your servant,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

One For you, my lord, are good and forgiving,
and great in mercy to all who call on you.

**All Give heed, O God, to my prayer,
and listen to my cry of supplication. R**

One Among the gods there is none like you, my lord,
nor can the deeds of any be compared to yours.

**All All the nations you have made shall come
and bow before you.**

One They shall glorify your name, my lord,

**All for you are great and do marvellous things;
you alone are God. R**

One Turn to me then, and have mercy;
give your strength to your servant.

**All Save your handmaiden's child;
give me a sign of your favour!**

One Then those who hate me will see and be ashamed,

All for you, God, have helped and comforted me. R

Hymn: VU561

“Take Up Your Cross”

1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.

2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel;
your Saviour once accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown. †

Young at Heart Time:

"The Welcome Mat"

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39

Joyce Armstrong

^{10:24} 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Response:

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

All: ...may we sense the Spirit of Pentecost and be guided by Holy Love.

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

All: ...Amen.

Meditation:

“Distractions”

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: VU541 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. †

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn: VU658

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

- 1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

- 2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,

that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be. †

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: VU288 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

R Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R †

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place inspired by the Holy Spirit.

All: We go in faith.

One: Let us go from this place prepared to transform the
communities of which we are a part.

All: We go in love.

One: Let us go from this place challenged to open ourselves to
the Spirit around us.

All: We go in hope and peace.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing: VU964 (x2)

“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

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 June 21st, 2026

Newcastle United Church

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for June 21st, 2026

(A new volunteer schedule is posted for July to September)

Duty	Nelson Pickett
Elevator	Carrie Varga
Greeters	Kathy & Dave Thom, Wayne Ferguson, Ann Thomas
Scripture Reader	Joyce Armstrong
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Kathy Common
Fellowship	M & P

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. Bring a friend!!
June 30th will be the last gathering until the fall.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY- is held on the **2nd Sunday of each month**, - **July 12th** 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. We also accept eTransfers to: treasurernuc@gmail.com

June 28th BAPTISM SUNDAY

Please join us as we celebrate the Baptism of Beckham Stephen Davis and Ella Martha Keller. Following the service "**Strawberry Shortcake**" Dessert will be served in Upper Wright Hall. (*free will offering*)

Canada Day, July 1st, the office will be closed.

