

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, March 22, 2026

5th Sunday in Lent & Annual Meeting

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: Honouring the Miracle of New Life

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU509

"I, The Lord of Sea and Sky"

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

R Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R †

Life and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: We are called to make the Lenten journey of reflection as we travel to Jerusalem.

All: Called to experience the miracle of new life.

One: We are called to prayer, praise and meditation.

All: Called to love and learn within that miracle.

One: Let us worship.

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: As we navigate our Lenten journey...

All: the Holy travels with us.

One: The Holy reveals our possibilities as individuals and as communities.

All: The Holy reveals the hopes and opportunities of our faith.

One: We are loved and cherished.

All: Thanks be to God, Amen.

Hymn: VU612

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

R There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1 Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. R
- 2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, 'He died for all.' R

Young at Heart Time:

"Rattled"

Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-6; 17-45

Fran Morton

^{11:1} Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at

the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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 as we make the reflective journey to Jerusalem.

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

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"Rise-Up"

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.

Hymn: VU660

"How Firm a Foundation"

- 1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- 2 'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.
- 3 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
- 4 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.
- 5 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake! †

We Receive the Offering

Doxology: VU537 “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands”

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.
- 2 Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake. †

Dedication of Our Gifts

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer:

VU910

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 For ever and ever. Amen †**

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU352

“I Danced in the Morning” (Lord of the Dance)

- 1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.
- R Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

- 2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R
- 3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R
- 4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R
- 5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: The Holy sends us out to travel our own journey to
Jerusalem.

**All: May we go with hope in our spirits and love in our
hearts.**

One: The Holy stands with us, among us and within us as we
share who and whose we are.

All: We grow as we experience Lenten reflection.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing:

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will be with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching you with love;
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. 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 March 22, 2026

Roblin-Enterprise Pastoral Charge

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for March 22, 2026

Duty	Al Bartholomew
Elevator	Carol Murduff
Greeters	Carrie Varga, Maggie Crawford Jack Murduff
Scripture Reader	Fran Morton
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Finance





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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, March 22nd following the Worship Service. Please plan on attending.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY- is held on the **2nd Sunday of each month**, - April 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2026 IS BAPTISM & NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please speak with Rev Kevin or speak with Michele asap at the office if you are interested. We look forward to welcoming new members: Doug Davery, Scott & Judy McMichael, Evan & Emma Paisley. Baptism candidate, Beckham Davis.

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.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS If you are not on our weekly email list and would like to be, please let us know by sending us an email to: info@northminsteruc.ca

GRACE BUCK INCOME TAX CLINIC

Volunteers will do your taxes for FREE.

They will be at Northminster United Church on:

- Monday, March 23rd
- Monday, April 20th
- Wednesday, April 29th

9 am to 3:30 pm; First Come First Serve.

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH PLAN

Church Members are invited to a group discussion each Sunday at 11:30 am and Tuesdays at 10:00 am. The objective of this Outreach Plan is threefold:

1. To strengthen and expand spiritual fellowship within the community served by NUC;
2. To build upon the assets and foundations created by NUC's founding and current members; and
3. To protect and sustain NUC so that it may continue its mission for future generations.

Easter Services

Sunday, March 29th	Palm Sunday	10 a.m
Sunday, April 3rd	Good Friday	10 a.m
Sunday, April 5	Easter Day	10 a.m

