

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Guest Minister: Rev. John Taylor

Organist: Nola Wilson

Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 10 am

5th 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 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:

Celebrating the New Life We Receive from the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU333

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise. < >

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Called by the Holy to enter into a new life of faith and hope.

All: Hallelujah! The stone is moved!

One: Called by the Holy to live our faith actively and faithfully.

All: Hallelujah! The tomb is empty!

One: Called by the Holy to share our nurturing faith in the Creation of which we are a part.

All: Hallelujah! Jesus is risen!

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The promise of an Easter faith tells us the Holy loves and cherishes each one of us for who we are and all that we may become.

All: Through reflection, transformation, and action, we live our Easter faith.

First Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Karen Strano

^{21:1} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Responsive Selection: VU871 (from Psalm 148) *Karen Strano*

Psalm 148

Refrain

*Jakob Hintze 1678; harm. J. S. Bach,
as in Hymns Ancient and Modern 1861*

Let the whole crea - a - tion cry,

"Glo - ry be to God on high."

**Refrain: Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory be to God on high".**

One Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!
Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

All Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!
Praise God, farthest heavens,
and all waters beyond heaven! **R**

One Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created, who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All Praise God from the earth,
great sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and frost,
gales that obey God's decree,**

One all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

**All sovereigns who rule earth and its people,
all who govern and judge this world,
young men and women alike,
old people and children together! R**

One Let all things praise the name of God,
the name above every other,
whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**All You give strength to your people,
songs of praise to your faithful,
to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R**

Hymn: VU595

"We are Pilgrims"

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too. < >

Young at Heart Time:

"Grandparents Hugs"

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35

Karen Strano

13:31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Responses:

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 live and love together in a resurrection faith.

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

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"God's Embrace"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for The New Creed

The New Creed:

VU918

One Let us stand as we are able and 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

Minute for Mission: "Farming Against the Odds" *Karen Strano*

In the rugged hills of India's Badabasko village, Jaiprakash Paharia, a determined 60-year-old farmer, and his wife, Rami Paharin, have battled against nature's odds. Their land, stony and dependent on increasingly unpredictable rains, yielded meagre crops of maize, cowpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum each year. Their family had literally hit rock bottom.

Faced with declining harvests, they turned to goat rearing in search of a more sustainable livelihood. Left with no other choice, Jaiprakash invested all he had in what seemed to be a promising venture. However, these efforts were marred by heartbreaking losses. Year after year, diseases claimed up to 20 of their precious goats, threatening their hope for a steady future once again. It was as if they were back at the foot of the hill; they were desperate.

As they were counting their losses, through Mission and Service partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank, member Tearfund Canada brought life-changing support to their village through The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR). The project team provided thorough training on livestock

management practices and taught about essential deworming and vaccinations to best sustain livestock.

Jaiprakash was skeptical at first about giving these treatments to his goats. However, as he learned how they could safeguard his livestock's health, he took on these practices graciously and achieved transformative results. For the first time since they had started keeping livestock, their goats remained healthy throughout the season, with zero losses! This newfound stability secured their livelihood and revitalized their hope for the future.

Jaiprakash and his family are endlessly thankful to Tearfund Canada and EFICOR for their radical support. Their training not only improved the health and well-being of their livestock but also equipped them with the tools and understanding to sustain themselves through future adversity.

Thank you for supporting our Mission and Service partners and people around the world, as they walk toward a more sustainable future.

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. < >

**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.**

Voices United page 916

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU594

"O Christian Love"

- 1 O Christian, love your sister and your brother!
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.**
- 2 Follow with reverent steps the great example:
Jesus whose holy work was doing good;
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.**
- 3 Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace. < >**

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place feeling the gift of the Resurrection.

All: We go in celebration.

One: Let us go from this place living the gift of the Resurrection.

All: We go in love.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the gift of the Resurrection.

All: We go in hope and peace.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be with us! Amen!

Sung Blessing: VU962 "May the Blessing of God Go Before You"

May the blessing of God go before you.

May her grace and peace abound

May her Spirit live within you.

May her love wrap you 'round.

May her blessing remain with you always.

May you walk on holy ground. < >

Music as the Worship Service Concludes

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for May 18th

Duty	Dave Thom
Elevator	Al Bartholomew
Greeters	Marion Milburn, Kathy Thom Linda Munroe
Scripture Reader	Karen Strano
Minute for Mission	Karen Strano
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett/Gale Osmond
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Affirm
Fellowship (June)	Christian Education

~~Announcements~~

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 cheque payable to: “Northminster United Church”***. This can be placed on the offering plate. We also accept eTransfers to: treasurenuc@gmail.com **Next Date:** June 8th

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.

COFFEE HOUR please join us each Tuesday for coffee/tea and sweets 10 am to 11 am. Everyone is welcome!

MUFFIN PARTY...Saturday, May 24th at Northminster United Church, in Upper Wright Hall, 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Admission is \$5

DONATIONS

We ask that all donations of baking, muffins, plants, frozen entrees, puzzles, games and books to arrive between 1-3:30 pm on Friday, May 23rd. Thank you so much.

“JOIN PETERBOROUGH COUNTY UNITED CHURCHES!”

On Sunday, June 8th 2025 at Northminster United Church, for 100th Anniversary Celebration of the United Church of Canada.

Worship beginning at **10:30 am**. Mass Choir Directed by Bev Templar, Kids Activities. Lion's Club BBQ Lunch for sale or bring your own picnic lunch (and lawn chair) to sit outside.