

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026 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 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 Many Peace-filled Houses of the Holy

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening 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! †

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Called to experience the grace and peace in the presence of the Holy.

All: Hallelujah! The stone is moved!

One: Called to trust in that presence.

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: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Susan Collins

^{2:2} Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,

to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner’,

⁸ and ‘A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Responsive Selection: VU758 (Parts 1 & 3) from Psalm 31
Lead by Susan Collins

Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.

Part One (1 - 5)

One In you, O God, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**All Deliver me in your righteousness;
incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue. R**

One Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

**All You are indeed my rock and fortress;
lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.**

One Release me from the net that they hid for me,
for you are my protector.

**All Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth. R**

Part Three (15-16)

One My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands
of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

**All Let your face shine on your servant,
and save me, for your mercy's sake. R †**

Hymn: VU325 "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.

2 To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run. †

Young at Heart Time:

"Milk and Cookies"

Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14

Susan Collins

14:1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.' 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.' 5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' 6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the

way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?' ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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:

"Many Houses"

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: VU343

“I Love to Tell the Story”

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.
- 2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R
- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R †

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: VU421 "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

- 1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.
- 2 Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.
- 3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.†

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 3rd, 2026

**Springbrook United Church
Rawdon-Springbrook Pastoral Charge**

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for May 3, 2026

Duty	Jaymes Winch
Elevator	Paula Winch
Greeters	Gord & Olivia James, Ann Thomas
Scripture Reader	Susan Collins
Congregational Elder	Carol Murdoff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Ken Nash, John Taylor
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**, - **May 10th** 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.