NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, November 29th, 2026 at 10 am

Advent 1 and Communion

Music as We Gather

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land: *Read by Rev Iain Buchanan*

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.

Life, and Work of the Community

Music as We Centre

Lighting the Advent Wreath: **"***Hope"*
(Sandra Jenkinson, Gathering, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2026/27)

One: Hope can be messy.
All: Hope is not always pristine, or pure, or gentle.
One: Sometimes hope is gritty, and stubborn, and mucky.
All: Like new life born in a stable.
One: We light this candle of hope – hope that springs up even in the messiness of our lives and hearts. The hope of Jesus meets us in the messiness. Hope beckons us forth to a new way.

(the 1st purple candle is lit)

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU06 (vs1) "A Candle is Burning"

1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh. †

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us on this Sunday dedicated to hope as we journey to a stable in Bethlehem.

All: Called to encounter the hope, peace, joy and love of the Advent season.

One: Called to embrace this time of preparation and reflection. Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy accompanies us on our Advent pathway, reminding us we are loved and never alone.

All: Through faith and action, we share the hope, peace, joy and love symbolically waiting for us in a manger in Bethlehem.

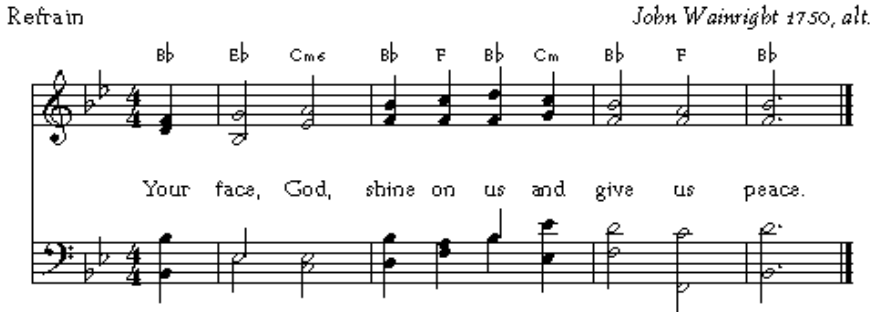
First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 *Jim Boothby*

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people. †

Responsive Selection: VU794 (Part 1) from Psalm 80

Psalm 80



Part One (1-7, 18-19)

One Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
All you who lead Joseph like a flock,
you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.
One Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;
All stir up your might, come and save us. R

One God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?
All You have fed us with the bread of weeping,
and given us tears in plenty to drink.
One You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,
All and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
One Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,
on the one you have made strong for yourself.
All Then we will never forsake you;
give us life, and we will call on your name. R

Young at Heart Time:
"The Hidden Room Part I - The Door to Somewhere"

Hymn: VU25 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall then behold you,
robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

4 Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down. †

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37 *Jim Boothby*

13:24 'But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather

his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes
tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So
also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is
near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not
pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for
you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going
on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the
master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at
cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he
comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Response

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...
All: …may we experience the hope, peace, joy and love in these words and stories we have heard.
Reader: In the name of Jesus, the promised one...
All: …Amen.

Meditation: *“Prep-work”*

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: VU544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done. †

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn: VU457 "As We Gather at Your Table"

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us

nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy. †

The Sacrament of Communion

A Paraphrase of the Lord's 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. †

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU120 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place challenged by the advent of the Holy.
All: We go in Hope.
One: Let us go from this place to calm the chaos in our world.
All: We go in peace.
One: Let us go from this place sharing the gifts of the Holy.
All: We go in joy.
One: Let us go from this place with our spirits filled.
All: We go in love.
One: And we say "Amen"!
All: 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. Amen. 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 November 29, 2026

Port Hope United Church, Port Hope ON

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for November 29, 2026

Duty	Al Bartholomew
Elevator	Lynn Bartholomew
Greeters	Bruce Newmaster, Ann Thomas Joyce Armstrong
Scripture Reader	Jim Boothby
Communion Servers	Linda Munroe, Iain Buchanan Chris & Dave Paterson
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship for November	Property Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD BANK SUNDAY- is held on the **2nd Sunday of each month, Dec. 13th,** 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

TUESDAY COFFEE TIME/CRAFT HOUR join us each Tuesday at 10 am. We gather in Upper Wright Hall. Coffee/Tea and a snack are provided. A great way to meet people. Bring a friend!



EAST SIDE MARIO'S Italian Dinner TICKETS ARE LIMITED
Friday, December 4th, 2026
$40.00/person (limited tickets) **Tickets available Sundays at church**
Doors OPEN at 6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner SERVED at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Dates:

November 29th, 2026	**Advent I**	**Communion**
December 6, 2026	**Advent II**	**White Gift Sunday**
December 13, 2026	**Advent III**	**Children's Choir**
December 20, 2026	**Advent IV**	
Thursday, December 24, 2026	**Christmas Eve**	**7:30 p.m.**