

**NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3  
Tel. 705-748-4881

[www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca) Email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, May 16, 2021

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*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

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**Music as We Gather**

**Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community**

**Acknowledgement of the Land:**

As we gather, we acknowledge that we 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.

**Call to Worship:**

One: Jesus offers us pathways to joy and growth.

**All: The Holy One calls us to follow Jesus' path and ask the question, "What would Jesus do?"**

One: Can we answer that questions living and loving accordingly?

**All: We can! Hallelujah! Let us worship together!**

One: Amen!

**All: Amen!**

**Opening 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.

### Opening Prayer

#### Words of Assurance:

One: As we celebrate the empty tomb the Holy reminds us...

**All: ...we are challenged to accept and share the new life and new hope of our resurrection faith.**

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

**All: ...Amen.**

#### Epistle Lesson:

1 John 5:9-13

<sup>5:9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

#### Young at Heart Time:

*"WWJD"*

#### Psalm Selection: VU724

Psalm 1

One: Blessed are those

**All: who follow the law of God.**

One: Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners, or sit down by those who mock.

**All: But their delight is in the law of God, and on the law they meditate day and night.**

One: They are like trees planted beside streams of water, yielding their fruit in due season.

**All: Their leaves do not wither, and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

One: Blessed are those

**All: who follow the law of God.**

One: As for the wicked, it is not so for them,

**All: but they are like chaff, driven away by the wind.**

One: Therefore, the wicked will not be able to stand when judgement comes, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**All: For God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

One: Blessed are those

**All: who follow the law of God.**

#### Gospel Lesson:

John 17:6-19

<sup>17:6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of

the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

One: As the Holy One informs our resurrection faith through the stories of our forebears, may we once again know we are challenged and encouraged to live a life of hope and love.

**All: May those stories inform, guide, and challenge us as children of the Holy.**

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

**All: ...Amen.**

**Hymn: VU326**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

**Meditation:**

“God’s Voice”

**The New Creed:**

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

**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.

### **Music for Meditation**

### **Invitation to Offer Our Gifts**

### **Dedication of Our Gifts**

### **A Minute for Mission:**

*“Jesse’s Story”*

Northminster United Church started the Affirming process in the winter of 2018. The Church wants to affirm that they embrace Jesus' Golden Rule "Love thy neighbours as thyself". Jesus illustrated this by the Good Samaritan story. It was noted that in 2018 the United Church's Moderator and General Secretary stated, "we heard passionate voices telling us of the continuing struggle for full inclusion by racialized people and people living with disabilities."

The Affirm Committee presented stories of marginalized or racialized people or those with disabilities. Some about people with mental illness, others about indigenous people and others about marginalized people including the gay community.

In March, the story was about the Canadian Rainbow Railway Group who help rescue people living in countries that execute gays. The Canadian Rainbow Railway Group facilitates passage to a safe country, this is in fact a current Canadian Good Samaritan story.

The Affirm Committee has completed all its tasks and finalized the Affirming Vision and Mission Statements. It is Springtime and the season of Easter now, the time for renewal. Time to complete the Affirm questions.

Once the Affirm Committee completes the questions and the Board accepts them, the congregation, at a congregational meeting called specifically to address the Affirming Ministry designation, can vote on becoming an Affirming Ministry that embraces the Golden Rule. Soon we will present details on the voting process which will be impacted by any pandemic protocols and orders that might still be in place.

Let us Pray:

Lord guide us as we consider and vote on accepting the Golden Rule as our guiding light.

Amen

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

### **Closing Hymn: VU418**

*“Go Forth for God”*

1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,

till in the kingdom we see face to face.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
render to no one evil; Christ at length  
shall overcome all darkness with his light.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

### **Blessing as We Go Forth:**

One: As our time together comes to an end...

**All: ...the presence of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we celebrate our  
Easter faith!**

One: May we cherish that journey as we live and love together as a resurrection people.

**All: In the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ,  
Amen and Amen!**

### **Music as We Depart**

### **Prayer Cycle**

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle  
for the week of May 16, 2021

**St. James United Church  
Peterborough, ON**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

“Worship Services” and “Prayer” videos are available weekly on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website:

[www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca)



Click to view our latest video

**Northminster United Church Sunday Worship Services will be Virtual only.**

Ways to Support Northminster United Church

**Pre-Authorized Givings**

contact church office

**Donation by E-Transfer**

Name: NUC Treasurer Email: [treasurernuc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurernuc@gmail.com)

**Offering Envelope Giving**

contact the church office

**Cash or cheque**

Cheques payable to “*Northminster United Church*”

Donations can be mailed to: 300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough, ON K9H 5L3  
Or delivered personally.

During Covid restrictions, envelopes can be placed in  
mail slot located to the left of the back door just off the parking lot.

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office email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

Rev. Kevin Derry email: [minister@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:minister@northminsteruc.ca)