

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3

Tel. 705-748-4881

www.northminsteruc.ca Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023 at 10 am

First Sunday of Advent & Communion

Music as We Gather

Welcome

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.

Music as We Centre

Advent Candle Lighting*:

Hope

One: In a world filled with tragedy and chaos, we arrive weary, wary and wrung out.

All: We come to find shelter from our fears, to discover hope as we practice our faith in worship.

One: We're tired of this marathon of difficulty, longing for relief through a return of what we once thought normal.

All: We come because the vulnerable Christ child enlightens us with possibility.

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this first candle symbolizing hope – the assurance that the Risen Christ transforms all things in love. (The first purple candle is lit).

All: Hymn VU7 vs 1 & refrain

“Hope is a Star”

Please remain seated

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

R When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid. < >

One: Flickering and fragile, this tiny flame opens us to wonder,
to the heart of God, which transforms us as we join
together in prayer:

**All: We come to be sustained in life, O God, even as we
wrestle. Inspire us to perceive the Way of Jesus as the
path of wholeness. Unite us to become a community
of faith woven as one by the spirit. Teach us how to
love by loving-kindness, becoming catalysts for hope
in the hearts of those we encounter. Amen.**

**Taken from Gathering 2023/24 (Year B), written by Gord Dunbar*

Please stand for Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU02

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Life and Work of the Community

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Dianne Kraft

- ^{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.

Psalm Selection: VU794 (Part 1)

Psalm 80

from Psalm 80

Led by Dianne Kraft

Refrain

John Wainwright 1750, alt.

Chords: B \flat E \flat C \natural B \flat F B \flat C \natural B \flat F B \flat

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

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:

"A Play-Doh Moment"

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

Dianne Kraft

^{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 hear the stories from our faith history that inspire us to embrace the promise and new life shared with us as we live together in the spirit of the hope, peace, joy and love of Advent preparation.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: Amen.

Please remain seated for hymn

Hymn: VU473 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with awe and reverence stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to us approacheth
our full homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high! < >

Meditation: *“That’s Figging Amazing”*

Music for Meditation

The New Creed: *Please stand*

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.

We Receive the Offering

Doxology: VU541 *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Minute for Mission: *“Compassion and Action”*
Read by Dianne Kraft

There is one thing that will never fail us: compassion.

Acts of compassion, both big and small, give rise to peace. We can’t wave a magic wand and bring about world peace, but with every act of compassion we harness the power of love, the same love Jesus lived and died for and that he promised would move mountains.

At a time when it feels like there's a new crisis confronting us each and every day, it's reassuring to know that Mission and Service partners provide real-time relief around the world on a daily basis.

That's why your generosity matters so much.

The food security initiatives, refugee support work, educational programs, and emergency and advocacy efforts your gifts through Mission and Service support aren't just about food, safety, education, and human rights. They are ultimately about compassion, peace, and hope. And in a world where division tears the fabric that binds us together, that's everything.

Jesus put compassion into action every day he lived. He brought hope into every room he walked into. He was literally the calm in the storm. He stretched out his arms in the ultimate sacrifice of love, and the world was never the same.

Every act of compassion contributes to a more peaceful world. Thank you for your generosity through Mission and Service. Your gifts truly do help move mountains.

Please remain seated for hymn

Hymn before Communion: 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:

Paraphrase of the Jesus 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 closing hymn

Closing Hymn: VU09

“People, Look East”

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way. < >

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place as children of the Holy.

All: We go in hope.

One: Let us go from this place as children of Creation.

All: We go in peace.

One: Let us go from this place transformed and inspired.

All: We go in joy.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Gospel.

All: We go in love.

One: Peace be with us!

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. < >

Music as the Worship Service Concludes

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 December 3, 2023

Wooler United Church

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK’S VOLUNTEERS for Dec 3rd

Duty	<i>John Tewsley</i>
Elevator	<i>Gerry Milburn</i>
Greeters	<i>Carol & Jack Murduff</i> <i>Debbie Campbell, Shirley Challice</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Dianne Kraft</i>
A Minute for Mission	<i>Dianne Kraft</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Communion Servers	<i>Carol & Jack Murduff</i> <i>Carol & Wayne Doherty</i>
Sound	<i>Alex Brunton/AI Bartholomew</i>
Video	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Jim Boothby</i>
Coffee Fellowship [Dec]	<i>Official Board</i>

**the new “Coffee Fellowship” sign up sheet is now posted on the bulletin board.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Northminster United Church Choir would love you to join them... They meet each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in the Friendship Room for practice. No previous experience required, just the joy of music. If you have any questions, please speak with Dustin Bowers or call the church office, we can answer your questions...

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, we ask that you place money in a separate envelope clearly marked as “*Donation to Kawartha Food Share*” also include your name or envelope number. ***Please make cheques payable to: “Northminster United Church”***. This can be placed on the offering plate. **Next date: December 10th**. We also accept Interac NUC Treasurer: treasurernuc@gmail.com



OUR NURSERY FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN is along the main corridor across from the kitchen.

WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING:

Greeters, elevator operators and Sunday Duty persons. If you are not already on our volunteer list, please consider helping out. If you could spare one Sunday every 4 or 5 weeks. Please contact the office. 705-748-4881

“VIDEO SLIDESHOW OPERATORS” & “AUDIO TECH” required. We are looking for more people to sign up to help with Sunday video & sound. No previous experience required and you will be trained. To find out more information please call the office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available throughout the Sanctuary. Please provide either your name or write your envelope number on the envelope. Contact the office to have personal envelopes. If you wish to have an envelope number, please contact the office.

NORTHMINSTER CHURCH FUNDRAISING DINNER

Provided by East Side Mario's

Friday, December 8th, 2023

Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$35.00 [includes wine]

Only 2 tickets left

Please take a look at the bulletin board down the hallway for Christmas events happening in the area.

Sunday, December 3rd Advent I with Communion

Sunday, December 10th Advent II White Gift

Sunday, December 17th Advent III

Sunday, December 24th at 10 am Advent IV

Sunday, December 24th at 7:30 pm Christmas Eve with Communion

Sunday, December 31st 1st Sunday after Christmas

