

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, December 4th, 2022

2nd Sunday in Advent & White Gift

Music as We Gather

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.

Opening Hymn: VU30

“Hail to God's Own Anointed”

- 1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious
in his sight.
- 3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome, Introductions, Life, and Work of the Community

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Peace

Maggie Crawford

One: Once more, we see the first and second candles of the Advent wreath lit. *(The first and second purple candles are lit.)*

All: The first is a sign of hope and the second a sign of peace shining brightly into our hearts. They are a sign that the Holy One is present and that we are once more blessed.

One: Come let us worship and celebrate! Let us sing:
VU07 verses 1 & 2 "Hope is a Star"

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.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. R

Opening Prayer:

One: God of peace, we gather here to continue the journey of Advent, a journey that takes us to the manger and beyond.

All: We journey in a world where too often the shadows are getting closer. Around us we continue to hear the clamour of war and the rattling of sabres, and too often, peace seems to be a distant dream.

One: Holy One, we pray for your peace, not just the peace that is the absence of war, but the peace that will lead to your reign. We long for the peace revealed through your son, who witnesses to your reign coming not through the sword, but through healing those who are sick, feeding those who are hungry, and reaching out to those who feel lost and alone.

All: Hear us, Holy One, in the privacy of our own hearts as we offer up to you our personal prayers for growth and rebirth... (Silent Prayer).

One: May this vision of peace fill us today, so together we will be agents of God's peace in the world. Amen.

All: Amen!

Words of Assurance:

One: In this season of preparation and waiting for the advent of Emmanuel, God-with-us, we trust in the love and grace of the Holy as we strive to follow the example and teachings of Jesus.

All: We are loved! We are forgiven! We are blessed!

One: Amen!

All: Amen!

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Karen Strano

^{11:1} A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsive Selection: VU790 (Parts 1 & 3)

Psalm 72

Led by Karen Strano

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

One Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,

**All for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice;**

One that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,

All and the hills, prosperity with justice. R

One May your anointed defend the cause of the poor
among the people, save the children of the needy, and crush
the oppressor.

**All May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.**

One May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth;

**All may your anointed be one in whose days
justice shall flourish and peace abound
till the moon is no more. R**

One Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvellous things.

**All Blessed is your glorious name for ever.
May the whole earth be filled with your glory. R**

Young at Heart Time:

"The Magic Cape"

Hymn: VU29

"Hark the Glad Sound"

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

Karen Strano

^{3:1} In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his

threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history that remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Advent season.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: ...Amen.

Meditation: *“The Water’s Edge”*

Music for Meditation:

The Creed

One: Let us stand as we are able and share 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 and White Gift

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

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.

A Minute for Local Mission: “Salvation Army Christmas Hampers”
Bruce Newmaster

Each year from mid-November to mid-December, the Salvation Army Peterborough receives donations of toys, food, and money to prepare Christmas hampers for those who find the holiday season a financially and/or spiritually difficult time of year. Our White Gift donations today will be passed along to the Salvation Army to assist with this program that has been running in Peterborough for decades. Thanks for the continued support.

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU10 (3x) “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord!

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place nourished, nurtured and challenged affirming and sharing the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Holy for creation and all the human family.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

One: Let us go from this place sharing the Good News and anticipating the advent of Emmanuel, God-with-us.
Alleluia! Amen!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Music as We Depart

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 4, 2022

Sandford-Zephyr Pastoral Charge
Sandford United Church
Zephyr United Church

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

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, 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. Thank you for your generous support!

Next date: December 11th.



“**The Longest Night ~ A Blue Christmas**” Service will be held on Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m. at Northminster United Church. A service designed to help people bridge the gap between feeling “blue” and entering into the joy of the Christmas Season.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY is December 4th. This is a special Christmas offering for Local Outreach. Envelopes are provided throughout the church. If you cannot find one, please ask a greeter. Donation envelopes can be placed on offering plate. Cheques payable to: “Northminster United Church” *marked for “White Gift”.*

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

This Sunday, December 4th, we will be collecting new unwrapped toys, books and gifts for young people. All items collected will be dropped off to the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

The Christian Education Committee will also be providing light refreshments during coffee time. Hope to see you in Upper Wright Hall after the service!

BIBLE STUDY

SHEPHERDS TO ANGELS: A Look at Biblical Symbols of Christmas will be held on Wednesday, December 14th. 1 pm and 7 pm. There is a signup sheet located on the bulletin board beside Rev Kevin’s office. Please indicate which time you prefer to attend.

MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree is now located in the Narthex waiting to be decorated with mittens, scarves, hats, and adult size socks; to be given to those less fortunate. The items will be delivered to local schools and shelters. Thank you to everyone for your support on this much needed ministry.

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-December 4

Duty	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Elevator	<i>Kathy Common</i>
Greeters	<i>Joyce Armstrong, Shirley Challice</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Karen Strano</i>
Minute for Local Mission	<i>Bruce Newmaster</i>
Lighting of Advent Wreath	<i>Maggie Crawford</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Ken Nash/John Taylor</i>
Coffee Fellowship	<i>Affirming Committee</i>
Coffee Fellowship (Jan.)	<i>Fran Morton, Judy Henderson</i>