

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, January 23rd, 2022

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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: We are called to share our gifts highlighted by Epiphany light.

All: Many and varied are the gifts we bring.

One: Actually, we are afraid the acceptance of those gifts may usher in unexpected growth and transformation, upsetting the status quo.

All: Called to live into that transformation and growth as shown through the Holy.

One: Change can be unsettling if it threatens the complacency we find ourselves in.

All: Called to embrace the growth and transformation as the Holy shines through all we are and all we do.

One: Let us worship.

All: Let us worship the Holy. Amen.

Hymn: VU262

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

- 2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

- 3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

- 4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy promises us eternal presence.

All: As we offer prayers for growth and new life on our journey through Epiphany in search of Emmanuel, the eternal presence reminds us we do not have to be perfect. If we name and own our mistakes while working to correct them, we will find forgiveness.

One: In the name of the Incarnate One...

All: Amen.

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Carrie Varga

^{12:12} For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all

suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts.

Responsive Selection: VU762 Psalm 19 (Led by Carrie Varga)

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

One: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

All: One day speaks to another, and night shares its knowledge with night,

One: and this without speech or language; their voices are not heard.

All: But their sound goes out to all the lands, their words to the ends of the earth.

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

One: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy, like an athlete eager to run the race.

All: Its rising is at one end of the sky, it runs the course to the other, and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

One: God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;

All: God's instruction is sure, giving wisdom to the simple;

One: God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

All: God's commandment is pure giving light to the eyes;

One: God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

All: God's judgements are true, every one of them righteous;

One: more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

All: sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb.

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

One: By them is your servant warned;

All: for in keeping them there is great reward.

One: But who can discern unwitting sins?

All: O cleanse me from my secret faults.

One: Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the better of me.

All: Then shall I be clean and innocent of great defence.

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

One: Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart

All: be acceptable in your sight, O God, my strength and my redeemer.

One: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

All: Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

Young at Heart Time:

"Sense It"

Music for Meditation

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:14-21

Carrie Varga

4:14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history that prepare us to embrace the intimate presence of the Holy alive in all of us.

One: In the name of Jesus, the Incarnate One...

All: ...Amen.

Hymn: VU699

"Live Into Hope"

- 1 Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!
- 2 Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.
- 3 Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.
- 4 Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Meditation:

"Once Upon a Dream..."

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.**

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.

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Affirm Minute: “Black History Month”

John Taylor

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU330

“Jesus Shall Reign”

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Blessing as We Go Forth:

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

All: ...**the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully
and love openly as we continue to welcome
Emmanuel, God – with – us.**

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator during this Epiphany Season, may the Eternal Light of the Holy shine brightly as we live and love together in faith.

All: **In the name of the Incarnate One, 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 January 23, 2022

**Land O'Lakes Emmanuel Pastoral Charge
Land O'Lakes Emmanuel United Church, Northbrook**

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-Jan 23/22

Duty	<i>Elgin Northey</i>
Elevator	<i>Kathy Common</i>
Contact Tracing Rep	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Mary Hess Northey, Linda Munroe</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Carrie Varga</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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ontario COVID-19 Restrictions:

GATHERINGS

- Social gathering limits will be reduced to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Capacity will be limited at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Businesses and organizations will need to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.

REDUCED CAPACITY LIMITS

- Capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies will be limited to 50 per cent capacity of a particular room. Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance. Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.

***Northminster United Church has always set our capacity limited to “less” than required amount to keep everyone socially distanced. We will continue to have in-person worship services. We asked that if you do not feel well or have symptoms, to please stay home.*

Due to the increased numbers relating to the covid-19 variants of concern it will be prudent to know who is coming to the office and for what purpose. Please make an appointment [in advance] by calling the office at 705-748-4881. Thank you for your cooperation.

“Worship Services” and “Prayer” videos continue weekly on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website: www.northminsteruc.ca

“Grief & Loss in a Time of Pandemic” meeting will resume when we can have more than 10 people able to gather indoors.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, January 25th at 7 pm. by Zoom. A link will be emailed out closer to the date.

NEXT WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Tuesday, February 8th at 7 pm.

AFFIRM MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1st at 1:30 p.m. This will however be determined by Ontario COVID-19 Restrictions. Please watch for updates.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on March 6th, 2022 following the Worship Service. All heads of church ministry and committees and anyone who generally writes a report for the Annual Report are requested to submit reports to Michele [by email preferred] by Sunday, February 13th, 2022. Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS will be posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway just outside of the kitchen.

All Covid-19 protocols are still in place. Masks “must” be worn at all times, if you do not have a mask, we will provide one to you. Social distancing must be kept and hand sanitizer used.

If you are planning to attend the Sunday Worship Service, we ask that you pre-register on “Eventbrite” located on our website at www.northminsteruc.ca . Please call the church office if you have difficulties in doing so and we would be happy to do it for you. 705-748-4881 [*leave a message if after office hours*]

“Proof of Vaccination” is required to enter the building, this includes for Worship services, weddings & funerals. **Proof of Vaccination will be checked every week, so please make sure to have your information with you.**

Attention Volunteers:

If you are a Sunday volunteer, i.e. Duty Person, Elevator Person, Usher, scripture reader, etc. Please make sure to register on “Eventbrite”

NOTES:
