

## **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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Organist: Nola Wilson

Sunday, July 16, 2023 at 10 am

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*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Spring/Summer Congregational Meeting*

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### **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**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Honouring God's Presence in Our Journeys

#### **Opening Hymn: VU516** "Come, You Thankful People, Come"

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!
  
- 2 All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,

then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

4 Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

## **Life, and Work of the Community**

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Called to celebrate the guiding presence of the Holy in  
the midst of our life journeys.

**All: Called to heed the guidance from the Holy as we live  
and love together.**

One: Called to worship and praise. Let us worship.

**All: Let us worship together!**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Words of Assurance:**

One: As the Spirit of Pentecost moves within, amongst and  
around us we are inspired to live authentically and  
compassionately as children of the Holy.

**All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are blessed.**

**First Lesson:** Genesis 25:19-34

*Sheila Godby*

<sup>25:19</sup> These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son:  
Abraham was the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old  
when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of

Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,  
 and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
 one shall be stronger than the other,  
 the elder shall serve the younger.'

<sup>24</sup> When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

<sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. <sup>30</sup> Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' <sup>32</sup> Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' <sup>33</sup> Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**Responsive Selection: VU841**

from Psalm 119  
*Led by Sheila Godby*

Psalm 119

Refrain 5

*Michael W. Smith 1984, arr. Keith Phillips, alt.*

Unison

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

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One Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light for my path.

**All I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous judgements.**

One I am in deep distress;  
give me life, O God, according to your word.

**All Accept, O God, the willing tribute of my lips,  
and teach me your decrees. R**

One I take my life into my hands continually,  
yet I never forget your law;

**All the wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.**

One Your testimonies are my heritage forever,  
the very joy of my heart.

**All I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes,  
forever, even to the end. R**

**Young at Heart Time:**

“Splitting Hairs”

**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.

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!'

<sup>18</sup>'Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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 and love together in the spirit of Pentecost.**

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

**All: Amen.**

**Hymn: VU341**

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

1 Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

- 2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
 robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
 Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
 who makes the troubled heart to sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
 and fair the twinkling, starry host;  
 Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
 than all the angels heaven can boast.
- 4 All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,  
 wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
 none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
 than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

**Meditation:**

*“Root Starter”*

**Music for Meditation**

**The New Creed:**

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

### Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

#### Closing Hymn: VU216 "Sing Praises to God, Who Reigns Above"

- 1 Sing praise to God, who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation;  
with healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!
  
- 2 What God's almighty power hath made,  
God's gracious mercy keepeth:  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
within the shelter of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!
  
- 3 Our God is never far away,  
but through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay,  
our peace, and joy, and blessing;  
as with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!
  
- 4 Thus all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud thy praises  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in your God, my heart!  
Both soul and body take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

#### Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place moved by the spirit of Pentecost.

**All: We go in celebration.**

One: Let us go from this place inspired by the spirit of Pentecost.

**All: We go in love.**

One: Let us go from this place transformed by the spirit of Pentecost.

**All: We go in peace.**

One: Let us go in peace.

**All: Peace be with us! Amen!**

**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 July 16, 2023

**South Bay United Church, Cherry Valley ON**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

### ***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for July 16***

<b>Duty</b>	<i>Paul Andrews</i>
<b>Elevator</b>	<i>John Tewsley</i>
<b>Greeters</b>	<i>Joan Findlay, Linda Munroe Debbie &amp; Martin Noakes</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<i>Sheila Godby</i>
<b>Congregational Elder</b>	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Sound</b>	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton/ Al Bartholomew</i>
<b>Video</b>	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
<b>Videographer</b>	<i>Kathy Common</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<i>Pastoral Care</i>



## 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. **Next date: August 13th.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 immediately following Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Greeters, elevator operators and Sunday Duty persons. If you are not already on our volunteer list, please consider helping out. See Bev Sherwin after church or call 705-742-6797 or by email to: [bsherwin@nexicom.net](mailto:bsherwin@nexicom.net)

**"VIDEO SLIDESHOW OPERATORS" required.** We are looking for more people to sign up to help with Sunday's video. No previous experience required and you will be trained. To find out more information please call the office.

**BROADVIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS: Cost is \$25.00**

NEW Subscription are accepted **anytime!** Please contact the office...