

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 10 am

4th Sunday in Lent & P.I.E Service

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: Remembering Those Who Find Themselves on the Margins

Opening Hymn: *"Find A Home"*

Refrain Find a home here,
live out faith here,
gather strength here,
find family here.
Be yourself here,
feel secure here,
celebrate here,
be at home here.

1. The doors here are open wide all who venture by are welcome inside.
Honouring the gift of diversity with different ways of loving, different ways to be.

2. Committed to love's command people have discerned and taken a stand.
Prejudice and fear have gone on too long,
it's time for every person truly to belong.
3. Surrounded by those who care share the love of God in worship and prayer.
Trusting the support, letting go of doubt,
the opening is made for safely coming out.

Welcome, Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Let us hear the call of the Holy.

All: Called to be public in our declarations of Affirming and inclusion.

One: Let us feel the call of the Holy.

All: Called to be intentional as we open our arms, hearts, and doors to the communities around us.

One: Let us respond to the call of the Holy.

All: Called to be explicit in our words and actions as we live and love together.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy loves and cherishes each one of us for who we are and all that we may become.

All: Through reflection and action, we heed the Lenten call to growth and rebirth.

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Nola Wilson

^{16:1} The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what

you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hymn: VU748

“God is My Shepherd” (From Psalm 23)

God is my shepherd, I'll not want,
I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led
by one I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new,
I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives
me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today;
In God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale,
where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there,
my shepherd strong and great,
whose rod and staff will comfort me
And all my fears abate.

No enemy can overcome,
no power on earth defeat
the ones anointed by God's grace
and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows
As I my Saviour greet.

Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares and leads
throughout all eternity.

Young at Heart Time:

"The Open Gate"

Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41

Nola Wilson

^{9:1} As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and

received my sight.”¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born

entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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 faith.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: Amen.

Meditation: *"The Heart-ware Store"*

Music for Meditation

The New Creed:

One Let us stand as we are able and join together in a statement of our communal faith...

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

An Affirm Minute:

“Moderator’s Message”

Hymn:

“With Open Hearts”

R With open hearts, open arms, open minds,
there is welcome in the place, there is welcome in this space,
there is welcome with embrace, with open hearts.

1. A place for caring and acceptance,
openness and trust, actions that are just.
All are welcome here, a place of belonging. R
2. A place for risking and affirming,
radical and bold, no one fits the mold.
All are welcome here, a place of inclusion. R
3. A place for healing and releasing,
brokenness and pain, hurt that's been sustained.
all are welcome here, a place for receiving. R
4. A place to question and to wonder,
liberating views, relevant and new.
All are welcome here, a place for engaging. R

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer:

(VU916, a Paraphrase)

**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.**

Closing Hymn: VU352

“Lord of the Dance”

- 1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
- 2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R
- 3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R
- 4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R

5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
 I am the life that will never, never die;
 I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
 I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place knowing the presence of the Holy.

All: We go in love.

One: Let us go from this place sharing the presence of the Holy.

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 March 19, 2022

Dunbarton-Fairport United Church, Pickering

[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: March 12th, 2023.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Due to the rising cost of weekly offering envelopes, it was decided to do the envelopes in house.

If you currently use an envelope with a number, we will continue using that number associated with your name. If you would like us to print your envelopes with your number, we will be more than happy to do so. Please contact the office directly by telephone or send me an email letting me know who you are and I will make sure you have envelopes available with your # for the new year. **Envelopes will be placed on the table in the Narthex for pick up.**

Always make sure either your name or envelope number is written on the envelope.

LENTEN STUDY 2023: The Way to the Cross

Please join Rev. Kevin on Wednesday, March 29th at 1 pm or 7 pm in the Friendship Room for a Lenten Study. Please print your name on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

NORTHTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH Luncheon & Card Party on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 in Upper Wright Hall beginning with lunch at 12 noon. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, sold in groups of 4. Contact Mary at 705-743-2518 or Bev at 705-742-6797. Tickets can also be purchased at the church office during the week.

SPRING CLEANING

The Christian Education Committee is doing some early SPRING CLEANING. We will have items available in UWH during coffee time for the next few weeks. Craft supplies, puzzles, books and other miscellaneous items looking for a new home. Please stop by and have a look! If you can use it or know someone who might, please help yourself.

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for March 19

Duty	<i>Elgin Northey</i>
Elevator	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Greeters	<i>Kathy & David Thom</i> <i>Judy Henderson, Linda Munroe</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Nola Wilson</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sunday School	<i>Maggie Crawford</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Kathy Common</i>
Coffee Fellowship	<i>Christian Education</i>
Coffee Fellowship [Apr]	<i>Mission & Outreach</i>