

# **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3

Tel. 705-748-4881

[www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca) Email: [info@northminsteruc.ca](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry  
minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 10 am

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*Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

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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 the Brave Prophets of Today and Yesterday

### **Opening Hymn: VU215**

“Hope for the World”

- 1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;  
save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
- 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.
- 3 Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from you to endless night.

4 Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt; we render back the love your mercy gave us; take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.

5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious, who by this sign has conquered grief and pain, we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.  
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.

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

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Called by the Holy to prophesy to all who will listen.

**All: Called by the Holy to prepare for the Reign of the Holy.**

One: Called to sing, pray, and reflect. Let us worship.

**All: Let us worship together!**

### **Opening Prayer**

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

One: As we move through the Seasons of Pentecost and Creation, may we feel the presence and forgiveness of the Holy as we live and love together.

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

**First Lesson:** Judges 4:1-7

*Dave Underhill*

<sup>4:1</sup> The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup> So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup> Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

<sup>4</sup> At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup> She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. <sup>6</sup> She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go,

take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup>I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."

**Responsive Selection: VU847**

(From Psalm 123)  
*Led by Dave Underhill*

**Psalm 123**

Refrain

*Hughes M. Huffman 1976*

To you, O God, our eyes we raise  
 un - til your mer - cy we may praise.

Music copyright © 1976 Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of the U.S.A.

One To you I lift up my eyes,  
**All to you who are enthroned in the heavens.**  
 One As the eyes of servants look to their master's hands,  
**All as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**  
 One so our eyes look to you, O God,  
**All as we wait till you show us your favour. R**  
 One We have had more than enough of contempt.  
**All Too long we have suffered the scorn of the wealthy,**  
**and the contempt of the arrogant. R**

**Young at Heart Time:**

*"Unexpected Gifts"*

<sup>25:14</sup> ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**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 and love together the  
spirit of Pentecost.**

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

**All: Amen.**

**Hymn: VU81**

**“As with Gladness Men of Old”**

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your splendour see.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with eager pace  
ever seek your throne of grace.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In the heavenly country bright  
none shall need created light;  
you its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
hallelujah to our King.

**Meditation:**

*“Risk vs Reward”*

## **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**

#### **A Minute Mission:**

*Dave Underhill*

Where would you be if you had no education? School fees, violence, child labour, and discrimination mean that too many children can't go to or stay in school in parts of the world.

Every child has the right to learn.

Mission and Service partner Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR) brings together child rights organizations to share information about child protection and safeguarding and helps to support children in schools.

Thanks to your support, KAACR has established over 300 child rights clubs in schools. One of these clubs helped Meshack

through primary school. A bursary program has helped him pay high school fees, and the child rights club at his school is teaching him how to be a positive role model.

“To start [going to] school was a problem. KAACR has helped me. They encouraged me a lot. They enabled me to start my primary school. Now I’m in high school,” Meshack says. “The club is helping us a lot, too. They give us role models to teach us what is bad and help us be confident in whatever we are doing. I’m very happy.”

Thank you for helping to break down barriers so every child can go to school, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. Your generous support through Mission and Service means that children around the world have the opportunity to go to school thanks to partnerships with organizations like KAACR.

**Hymn: VU506**

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

- 1      Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
  
- 2      Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and purposeful for thee.
  
- 3      Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.
  
- 4      Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.
  
- 5      Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## **Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer**

(VU916, 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: VU416**

“Forth in Your Name, O Christ”

- 1      Forth in your name, O Christ, we go,  
our daily labour to pursue,  
you, only you, resolved to know  
in all we think, or speak, or do.
- 2      The task your wisdom has assigned  
here let us cheerfully fulfil;  
in all our works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.
- 3      You may we set at our right hand,  
whose eyes our inmost secrets view,  
and labour on at your command  
and offer all our works to you.
- 4      Help us to bear your easy yoke,  
in every moment watch and pray,



and still to things eternal look,  
and hasten to that glorious day.

- 5 Then with delight may we employ  
all that your bounteous grace has given,  
and run our earthly course with joy,  
and closely walk with you to heaven.

**Blessing as We Go Forth:**

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

**All: We go in celebration.**

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

**All: We go in love and thanksgiving.**

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

**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 November 19, 2023

*Westbrook United Church, Westbrook*

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

## ***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS for Nov 19/23***

<b>Duty</b>	<i>John Tewsley</i>
<b>Elevator</b>	<i>tbd</i>
<b>Greeters</b>	<i>Kathy &amp; Dave Thom Fran Morton, Judy Henderson</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<i>Dave Underhill</i>
<b>Minute for Local Mission</b>	<i>Dave Underhill</i>
<b>Congregational Elder</b>	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Sound</b>	<i>Alex Brunton/Al Bartholomew</i>
<b>Video</b>	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
<b>Videographer</b>	<i>Kathy Common</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<i>M &amp; P</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship [Dec]</b>	<i>Official Board</i>

*\*the new "Coffee Fellowship" **sign up sheet** is now posted on the bulletin board*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**DO YOU LOVE TO SING?!!**



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 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Dinner service at 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$35.00 [includes wine]

Tickets available after church or from the office during the week

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

Sunday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Reign of Christ
Sunday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Advent I with Communion
Sunday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Advent II White Gift
Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Advent III
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> at 10 am	Advent IV
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm	Christmas Eve with Communion
Sunday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas