

## **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, September 4, 2022

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

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### **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.

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

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

#### **Opening Hymn: VU216**

“Sing Praise 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!

### **Call to Worship:**

One: The Holy calls us to acknowledge and accept our gifts and the gifts of others.

**All: Why would we do that?**

One: We do that to live faithfully and authentically as children of the Holy.

**All: How do we do that?**

One: We would do that by listening, sharing, and engaging with each other and the Holy. Let us worship.

**All: Let us worship together.**

### **Opening Prayer**

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

One: Through the Spirit of Pentecost, we hear the call to faith.

**All: A faith that reminds us we are loved and cherished, while challenging us to share that love.**

One: In the name of Jesus...

**All: Amen.**

**First Lesson:** Jeremiah 18:1-11

*(Joyce Armstrong)*

18:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was

spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>6</sup> Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, <sup>8</sup> but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. <sup>9</sup> And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, <sup>10</sup> but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. <sup>11</sup> Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

**Psalm Selection: VU861**

from Psalm 139  
*(Led by Joyce Armstrong)*

Refrain: God, you have search me, you know me through and through.

One O God, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**All You discern my path and the places I rest;  
you are familiar with all my ways.**

One Before a word is on my tongue, you know it, O God,  
completely.  
You guard me from behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

**All It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery;  
I cannot fathom it. R**

One Where can I escape from your spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?

**All If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

One If I take wing with the dawn  
and alight at the sea's farthest limits,  
**All there also your hand will be guiding me  
your powerful hand holding me fast.**

One If I say, 'Let the darkness cover me  
and my day be turned to night,'  
**All even darkness is not dark to you:  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you. R**

One It was you who formed my inward parts;  
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.  
**All I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.  
Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

One My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was being fashioned in secret,  
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.  
**All Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;  
in your book my every day was recorded;  
all my days were fashioned,  
even before they came to be. R**

One How deep your designs are to me, O God!  
How great their number!  
**All I try to count them but they are more than the sand.  
I come to the end - I am still with you.**

One Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
**All test me and know my thoughts.**

One Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error  
**All and guide me in the everlasting way. R**

**Young at Heart Time:**

*"Heart of Clay"*

**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.

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 14:25-33

*(Joyce Armstrong)*

14:25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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:**

*"Sculpture Within"*

**Music for Meditation**

## **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.**

**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: VU561**

"Take Up Your Cross"

- 1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.
- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,  
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

- 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
nor let your foolish pride rebel;  
your Saviour once accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
- 4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,  
think not till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

**Minute for Mission:**

*(Joyce Armstrong)*

*“Small Church with Big History Attracts Pilgrims”*

Since Jesus first walked on this earth, Christians have been spiritually drawn to make pilgrimages to places connected to his birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection, and legacy. Today, pilgrimage hot spots include Oberammergau in Germany, Lourdes and Taizé in France, and of course the Holy Land.

Here in Canada, thousands of Christian pilgrims make their way to the small town of Napanee, ON, to visit Old Hay Bay Church each year. The last Sunday in August is the highlight of the season, when the church hosts its annual pilgrimage service.

What's the attraction? It's a mix of the history, scenery, spiritual connection, and community.

An unassuming building clad with greyed wood siding and wide doors that open to a plain but sturdy sanctuary, Old Hay Bay Church was originally built on the shoreline of Hay Bay, which connects to the Bay of Quinte, in 1792. It is the oldest Methodist building—and one of the oldest churches—in Canada. Now, it belongs to The United Church of Canada, and your generosity through Mission & Service helps ensure that it will continue to be a place of pilgrimage for years to come.

Elaine Farley, chair of the Board of Trustees and one of the church's custodians, explains that the building, originally referred to as the “meeting house,” was the centre of the rapid growth of Methodism and hosted the first camp meeting in 1805. “Methodism grew into the largest Protestant group in Canada and was the largest communion that became the United Church in 1925,” she says. “The Founders reflect any United Church congregation today. They came from various countries of origin and had a wide variety of skills

and knowledge, but together they made a strong voice, speaking of God, their community, and their future.”

Farley warns that she could enthusiastically “go on and on” about why the small church in rural Ontario is so important, but she sums it up with three short sentences: “Old Hay Bay Church has earned its place in the history of Methodism and The United Church of Canada. It is not just a building but also a sacred place of our ancestors, as well as a pilgrimage place for us and our descendants. It has a special place in peoples’ hearts.”

Thank you for helping to preserve important historical, theological, and pilgrimage sites through your Mission & Service gifts.

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

#### **Closing Hymn: VU660**

“How Firm a Foundation”

- 1        How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
          is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
          What more can be said than to you has been said,  
          to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
  
- 2        'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
          For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
          I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
          upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.
  
- 3        'When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
          the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
          for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
          and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
  
- 4        'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
          my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
          the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
          your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.
  
- 5        'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
          I will not - I will not desert to his foes;  
          that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
          I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'

## **Blessing as We Go Forth:**

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

**All: ...the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we follow the call of the Holy.**

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator, may our reflections and discussions transform our actions and attitudes as we live and love together in faith.

**All: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen and 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 September 4, 2022

**Uxbridge:Trinity Pastoral Charge  
Trinity United Church, Uxbridge**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

### ***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-Sept 4***

<b>Duty</b>	<i>John Tewsley</i>
<b>Elevator</b>	<i>Wayne Doherty</i>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<i>John Taylor, Ken Nash</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<i>Joyce Armstrong</i>
<b>Congregational Elder</b>	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Sound</b>	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
<b>Video</b>	<i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i>
<b>Videographer</b>	<i>Ken Nash, John Taylor</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<i>Finance</i>
<b>Minute for Mission</b>	<i>Joyce Armstrong</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 in a separate envelope clearly marked with your name or envelope number and clearly marked "*Donation to Kawartha Food Share*" This can be placed on offering plate. Thank you for your generous support! Next date: September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**NAME TAGS**, we ask that you wear your name tags on Sundays, if you do not have a name tag, please contact the office. 705-748-4881.

**NORTHMINSTER ANNUAL FALL ROUND-UP BARBEQUE** is "Sold Out".

Michele will be on holidays beginning Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you require assistance, please call the office and leave a message. If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Rev Kevin [minister@northminsteruc.ca] and he will speak of it during the Sunday service.