

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 10 am

Advent II

Peace, White Gift Sunday

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.

Life, and Work of the Community

Music as We Centre

Lighting the Advent Wreath:

“Peace”

One: The Advent Season is a time known for candles, coloured lights, and bright stars.

All: This four-week long season points us towards the cradle of Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary.

One: It is important we light the candles to remind us that we do not live in the shadows of despair and discouragement.

All: We are a people of light and peace.

One: Today we light the candle of peace to guide us on our journey to Bethlehem... (the 2nd purple candle is lit).

Let us sing together verses 1 & 2 of **VU 7**, “Hope is a Star”

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

R When God is a child there's joy in our song.
 The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
 and none shall be afraid.

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
 giving a promise of safety and worth. R †

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Advent candles illuminate our journey to Bethlehem.

**All: Through reflection, transformation, and action this
Advent Season we, once again, journey to Bethlehem
seeking the intimate presence of the Holy.**

Hymn: VU30

“Hail to God’s Own Anointed”

1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious
in his sight.

3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love. †

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Dianne Kraft

^{11:1} A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

Psalm Selection: VU790, Part 1 & 3

(from Psalm 72)
Led by Dianne Kraft

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

Part One (1-8)

One Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,

**All for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice;**

One that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,

All and the hills, prosperity with justice. R

One May your anointed defend the cause of the poor
among the people,
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

All May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.

One May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth;

All may your anointed be one in whose days
justice shall flourish and peace abound
till the moon is no more. R

Part Three (18-19)

One Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvellous things.

All Blessed is your glorious name for ever.
May the whole earth be filled with your glory. R

Hymn: VU10 "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (x3)
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord! †

Young at Heart Time: "Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts"

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 *Dianne Kraft*

^{3:1} In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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 by the Advent Spirit of the Holy.

Reader: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us...

All: Amen.

Meditation: *“Preparation Time”*

Music for Meditation

Please stand for the New Creed

The New Creed

One: Let us 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. Amen. †**

Offertory and White Gift Presentation

Doxology: VU540 “Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving”
Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully. †

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn: VU20 “On Jordan’s Bank”

- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore. †

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer: 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. *Voices United 916***

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU18 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

- 1 There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
 prepare in the desert a highway,
 a highway for our God!
 The valleys shall be exalted,
 the lofty hills brought low;
 make straight all the crooked places
 where God, our God, may go!

- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
 get thee up to the heights and sing!
 Proclaim to a desolate people
 the coming of their King.
 Like the flowers of the field they perish,
 like grass our works decay;
 the power and pomp of nations
 shall pass, like a dream, away.

- 3 But the word of our God endureth,
 whose arm is ever strong;
 God stands in the midst of nations,
 and soon will right the wrong.
 God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
 the lambs so gently hold;

to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

- 4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go! †

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: Let us go from this place with the guiding lights of hope,
peace, joy and love.

**All: Let us go from this place making the journey toward
the cradle in Bethlehem.**

One: May we find there, once again, the intimate presence of
the Holy.

**All: Let us go from this place sharing the Presence of
Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

Sung Blessing: VU962 "May the Blessing of God"
May the blessing of God go before you.
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you.
May her love wrap you 'round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground. †

Music as the Worship Service Concludes

East Central Ontario 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 December 7, 2025

St. Paul's United Church, Ajax

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for December 7, 2025

Duty	Dave Thom
Elevator	Wayne Doherty
Greeters	Ann Thomas, Fran Morton, Carol Doherty
Scripture Reader	Dianne Kraft
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Affirm Committee

JOIN US FOR COFFEE TIME each Tuesday morning at 10 am. at Northminster United Church in Upper Wright Hall for a warm cup of coffee or tea and possibly a little snack. Bring a friend!!

Last coffee time of 2025 is December 16th & restart on January 6, 2026.

BIBLE STUDY ... Wednesday, December 10th

“Day & Night – The Use of Light and Dark in the Nativity” with Rev Kevin. Sign up sheet is posted on bulletin board. Please sign up as soon as possible.

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 the Sanctuary and at back foyer [*exit to parking lot*]. If you wish to make a cash donation instead, ***please make your cheque payable to: “Northminster United Church”***. This can be placed on the offering plate. We also accept eTransfers to: treasurernuc@gmail.com
Next Date: December 14th

MARK YOU CALENDAR...

Sunday, December 7 th	White Gift Sunday
Sunday, December 14 th	Children’s Choir during service

Next Rehearsal Date(s) for Children’s Choir at 11:15 am

- Sunday, December 7th
- Saturday, December 13th 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party

SUNDAY COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED if you are available the odd Sunday to help out Sunday mornings making coffee/tea, please let us know. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway beside Rev Kevin's office. Thank you!

FAITH RE-LOADED: "Discover the Bible in a language you speak." "Christianity isn't about age, it's about purpose."

Christianity is for a multitude of ages. The Bible speaks to real struggles, questions, and hopes that young adults face today, giving us guidance that is relevant even in today's world. If you see yourself being a part of something that inspires practical faith, builds community, makes scripture relatable, and encourages an open dialogue with varying opinions, please attend the upcoming sessions for young adults aged 15-40. Sessions run every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month (weather permitting). **Next Meeting: December 3rd**

If interested, please contact Payton by emailing paytonld97@outlook.com with your name(s) and contact info.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, Sunday, January 11, 2026. Anyone wishing to be a member of Northminster United Church, please let Rev Kevin or Michele in the office know.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ... please contact Michele in the office to let her know you require offering envelopes. Email: info@northminsteruc.ca or Tel. # 705-748-4881.

The Sanctuary is being decorated and the **"Mitten Tree"** waits to be decorated with mittens, scarves, hats, underwear & socks. All items will be donated to those in need. Please consider making a donation to our tree and help make someone's Christmas a bit brighter....

Donations can be made throughout Advent season.

PASTORAL CARE: If you know someone that is in the hospital that we should know about, please call the office and let us know. The hospital does not notify us & there is no longer access to a church list. If calling the church after hours, please leave a message 705-748-4881.

Please keep in mind, we all need to take care of each other.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS If you are not on our weekly email list and would like to be, please let us know by sending us an email to: info@northminsteruc.ca

"WHITE GIFT SUNDAY" is December 7th. We will have White Gift envelopes available for anyone that wishes to give a monetary donation. All monetary donations will go towards "Local Outreach".

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

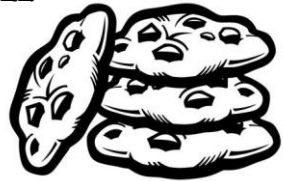
Join our Church Maintenance Team!...to ensure our church remains a safe, welcoming, and high-value space for our community. **No monthly meetings are required. **
Please speak with Rick Peconi or contact the office.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE TIN SALE

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

Available following the Worship Service
Pre-Order signup sheet on bulletin board.
Cost \$15.00



Season of Advent

