

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10 am

Advent III

Joy, Kids Choir

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:

“Joy”

Led by Susan Collins

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 joy.

One: Today we light the candle of joy to guide us on our journey to Bethlehem... (the pink candle is lit)

Let us sing together verses 1, 2, & 3 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
- 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. 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: **VU29** "Hark the Glad Sound"

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name. †

Responsive Lesson:

VU898, Refrain 1

(Mary's Song, Magnificat Luke 1:46b – 55)

Led by Susan Collins

**Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise;
In God my saviour I rejoice.**

One My soul proclaims God's greatness.

All My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

One For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

All From this day all generations will call me blessed.

One You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.

All Hallowed be your Name!

One You have mercy on those who fear you,

All From one generation to another. R

One You took action with a strong arm.

All You scattered the proud in their conceit.

One You pulled the mighty from their thrones.

All You raised the lowly.

One You filled the hungry with good things.

All You sent the rich away empty.

One You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,

**All for you remembered your promise of mercy,
to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah,
and to their children in every age. R**

Hymn: VU215

“Hope of 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. †

Young at Heart Time:

“A Lot to Think About”

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

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: VU76

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

- 1 See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.
- R Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
- 2 Lo, within a manger lies
God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim. R
- 3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep? R
- 4 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth.' R
- 5 Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this! R †

Presentation of the Kids' Choir

Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer

Please stand for the Closing Hymn

Closing Hymn: VU59

“Joy to the World”

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. †

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 14, 2025

Fenelon Falls United Church

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for December 14, 2025

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Carol Murduff
Greeters	Jack Murduff, Wayne Ferguson Kathy Thom
Scripture Reader	Susan Collins
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 ... postponed to Wednesday, December 17th at 1 p.m "Day & Night – The Use of Light and Dark in the Nativity" with Rev Kevin.

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

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!

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

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

Order pick up following the Worship Service.

