

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 10 am

1st Sunday after Christmas

Music as We Gather

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that Northminster United Church and the communities it serves 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 the Dislocated

Please stand for the Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn: VU58

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till
the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you! †

Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: The manger is filled. The angels have moved on.

All: Called by the Holy to meet around the manger.

One: Already there is trouble as the Holy Child becomes a threat to the status quo.

All: Called by the Holy to stand firm in solidarity with those displaced by war, oppression, climate change and economic disparity.

One: Let us worship!

All: Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy gift of Christmas is the intimate presence of God incarnated in the baby Jesus.

All: That gift reminds us we are never separated from the love that created us and that lives within and among us.

One: We are loved and accepted. We are forgiven and blessed.

All: Thanks be to God, Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

Al Bartholomew

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';

and he became their saviour

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Responsive Selection: VU871

(From Psalm 148)
Led by Al Bartholomew

**Refrain: Let the whole creation cry,
“Glory be to God on high.”**

One Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!
Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**All Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!
Praise God, farthest heavens,
and all waters beyond heaven! R**

One Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command
they were created,
who established them for all time,
setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All Praise God from the earth,
great sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and frost,
gales that obey God's decree,**

One all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

**All sovereigns who rule earth and its people,
all who govern and judge this world,
young men and women alike,
old people and children together! R**

One Let all things praise the name of God,
the name above every other,
whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**All You give strength to your people,
songs of praise to your faithful,
to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R**

Hymn: VU473

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with awe and reverence stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to us approacheth
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,

Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high! †

Young at Heart Time:

“Sing Out”

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Al Bartholomew

^{2:13} Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and

his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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 in the midst of the miracle of Christmas.

Reader: In the name of the Emmanuel...

All: Amen.

Meditation:

"The Other Exodus"

Music for Meditation

Please stand for The New Creed

The New Creed VU918

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. †

Hymn: VU74

“What Child is This”

- 1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
- R This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. R
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. R †

We Receive the Offering

Doxology: VU542

“We Give You But Your Own”

We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.

Dedication of Our Gifts

Hymn:

“I Wonder as I Wander”

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor simple people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

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: VU55 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed

the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

- 3 Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.
- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: The Holy sends us out with love, compassion and inspiration.

All: We go with renewed energy and commitment.

One: The Holy stands with us, among us and within us as we share who and whose we are.

All: We go with compassion and acceptance.

One: The Holy transforms us all through faith and action.

All: We go into the world pursuing hope and peace.

One: Let us go in peace.

All: Peace be 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 28, 2025

Centennial-Albert United Church

Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for December 28, 2025

Duty	Jaymes Winch
Elevator	Paula Winch
Greeters	Linda Munroe, Wayne & Carol Doherty
Scripture Reader	Al Bartholomew
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.**

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

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.

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 for further information.