

## **NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 10 am

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Epiphany Sunday

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### **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 Eternal Holy Light

*Please stand for the Opening Hymn*

#### **Opening Hymn: VU235**

“O Worship the King”

- 1 O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.
- 2 O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and broad is God's path on the wings of the storm.
- 3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your power has founded of old;

has established it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend. †

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

### **Call to Worship:**

One: The Holy calls us into the light as we pray, praise and reflect.

**All: We enter the honesty of that light.**

One: We enter the warmth of that light.

**All: We enter the relief of that light.**

One: We enter the challenge of that light. Let us worship!

**All: Let us worship together!**

### **Opening Prayer**

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

One: The Light of the Holy reveals us as we are.

**All: It reveals our strengths and areas of growth.**

One: It reveals our possibility.

**All: It reveals the true love of the Holy.**

One: We are loved and cherished.

**All: Thanks be to God, Amen.**

#### **First Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>2:1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was

to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Responsive Selection: VU868 – 69 Part 2** (From Psalm 147)

Refrain: Sing to God in great thanksgiving.

Part Two (12-20)

One Hallelujah, O Jerusalem!

**All Zion, praise your God.**

One For God has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
and blessed your children within you.

**All God has established peace within your borders,  
and filled you with the finest wheat. R**

One You send your word to the earth, O God;  
your command runs swiftly.

**All You give snow like wool,  
and sprinkle hoar-frost like ashes.**

One You scatter hailstones like bread-crumbs;  
you send the cold, and the waters stand frozen.

**All You utter your word and the ice melts;  
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.**

One You make known your word to Jacob,

your statutes and decrees to Israel.

**All You have not done this for any other nation,  
nor have you taught them your laws. R**

**Hymn: VU79**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

- 1 Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,  
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong. †

**Young at Heart Time:**

*“Special Gifts”*

**Second Lesson:** John 1:1-18

<sup>1:1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## 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 Epiphany Light of the Holy.**

Reader: In the name of the Emmanuel...

**All: Amen.**

## Meditation:

*"A Whole New World"*

## 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: VU679**

“Let There Be Light”

- 1 Let there be light,  
let there be understanding,  
let all the nations gather,  
let them be face to face;
- 2 open our lips,  
open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord  
opening into grace;
- 3 perish the sword,  
perish the angry judgement,  
perish the bombs and hunger,  
perish the fight for gain;
- 4 hallow our love,  
hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
hallow their holy freedom,  
hallowed be your name;
- 5 your kingdom come,  
your spirit turn to language,  
your people speak together,  
your spirit never fade;
- 6 let there be light;  
open our hearts to wonder,  
perish the way of terror,  
hallow the world God made. †

**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: VU271**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
 like the wideness of the sea;  
 there's a kindness in God's justice  
 which is more than liberty.
  
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
 are more felt than up in heaven;  
 there is no place where earth's failings  
 have such gracious judgement given.
  
- 3 There is plentiful redemption  
 in the blood that Christ has shed;  
 there is joy for all the members  
 in the sorrows of the Head.
  
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
 like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
 Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
 from a love so true and deep?
  
- 5 For the love of God is broader  
 than the measures of the mind,  
 and the heart of the Eternal  
 is most wonderfully kind. †

**Prayers of the People and the Jesus Prayer***Please stand for the Closing Hymn***Closing Hymn: VU 91**

“The First Nowell”

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep  
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
 born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. R
- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. R
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. R
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R
- 6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. R †

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

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

**All: We go with the revelation of Epiphany Light.**

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

**All: We love with the revelation of Epiphany Light.**

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

**All: We live with the revelation of Epiphany Light.**

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 January 4, 2026

### Trinity United Church, Cobourg

## Thank You to This Week's Volunteers for January 4, 2026

Duty	John Tewsley
Elevator	Carol Murduff
Greeters	Jack Murduff
	Don & Jane Bullock
Scripture Reader	tba
Congregational Elder	Carol Murduff
Sunday School Coordinator	Maggie Crawford
Sound	Gale Osmond
Video	Nelson Pickett
Videographer	Lynn Bartholomew
Fellowship	Worship Committee

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE TIME on January 6<sup>th</sup>** and 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!!

**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](mailto:treasurernuc@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@northminsteruc.ca)

