



## Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

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[office@northleaunited.ca](mailto:office@northleaunited.ca)

Welcome to Northlea! Northlea is proud to be a safe space and accessible for those with mobility assists such as wheelchairs, and scooters. We welcome pets, and invite you to bring your coffee to service! If we can help improve your experience by providing you with assisted hearing devices, a large print hymn book or large print order of service, we have them – just ask one of our *Welcomers*.

Infants, toddlers, and children are welcome as part of our worship in the sanctuary! Following the first part of the service each Sunday, many of our children and youth go with their leaders to “*Cool Church*.” Children who are visiting are invited to join in!

After the service, everyone reconnects in the Community Room over refreshments. We encourage everyone to wear name tags, so if you don’t have one, and would like one, please let one of our *Welcomers* know.

### ***Thank You for Helping with Today’s Service:***

Welcoming: Diana and Roy Bennett

Reading: Rita Donelan

Sound Technician: Bev Vanstone

Kitchen Hospitality: Susane and Anthony Policicchio

Communion Servers: Roy and Diana Bennett, Jackie Morris, Lucy Platt

*If you are interested in volunteering to help out with Sunday Morning Ministries, please contact Barb Ferguson in the church office or sign up on the sheets posted outside on the Welcome Board.*

**Minister: Lee-Ann Ahlstrom** [lee-ann@northleaunited.ca](mailto:lee-ann@northleaunited.ca)

**Music Director: David Jafelice** [david@northleaunited.ca](mailto:david@northleaunited.ca)

**Administrative Coordinator:** Barb Ferguson [barb@northleaunited.ca](mailto:barb@northleaunited.ca)

**Facility Manager: Robert Pringle** [building@northleaunited.ca](mailto:building@northleaunited.ca)

**Cool Church Coordinator: Daniel Stefan** [danielstefanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:danielstefanmusic@gmail.com)

**Youth Leader: Jo Dullard** [jo@northleaunited.ca](mailto:jo@northleaunited.ca)



DONATE NOW Through Canada Helps by going to [www.northleaunited.ca](http://www.northleaunited.ca) or by signing up for PAR (Pre-Authorized Debit) through the church office.

Northlea United Church  
December 3, 2017  
First Sunday of Advent - Hope

Minister - Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

Music Director - David Jafelice

Bedford Park Band: Jesse Boxer-Meyrowitz – Double Bass,

Felix Fox-Pappas - Piano, Brian Williams – Drums,

Marcia Camaraille - Flute

*(\*) Please stand if you are comfortable and able.*

**Bold letters** indicate words to be said by the whole congregation.

**Please ask** one of our greeters if you would like a large- print bulletin,  
a large-print hymn book or an assisted hearing device.

~ Gathering ~

*Before or during the prelude you are welcome to come to the front and light a tealight candle and/or enter your prayer requests in the book provided. Your prayers can be included in the prayers of the people during the service.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn:**

**Prepare! Prepare!**

Stephen Pishner

Ostinato Refrain



Pre- pare! Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare! Pre- pare the



way of the Lord, oh, Pre- pare! Pre- pare the way of the Lord.



The Lord our God is com- ing soon. Oh.

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## Announcements, Joys and Concerns

### Call to Worship:

In this season of expectation

**we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.**

Into the bustle of our lives

and the hard to find moments of solitude

**we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.**

Into our homes and situations

along with friends and families

**we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.**

Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives

**we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.**

### Advent Candle Lighting

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.*

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.*

In the beginning was the Word—

spoken and breathed,

a promise made and kept.

**Listen and hear—**

**God's promise is true!**

The Word was in the beginning,

and through him all things come into being.

**Eternal and near at hand,**

**Already and not-yet,**

**God's promise is the foundation of all life.**

Listen!

Hear the covenant anew, giving voice to a future with hope.

*~ candle is lit ~*

**Greetings of Peace** - *The congregation is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another. The children and youth will leave for their Cool Church listening and learning time.*

**Sung Response: Maranatha**

**More Voices #19**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Eternal Listener, give heed to  
your people,**

**You, who are our Guide and our Light!  
Enliven your people with compassion  
that hope and justice  
might flourish.**

**Gentle Teacher, help us to turn  
to You in prayer,  
fasting from our negative thoughts.**

**In your steadfast Love, You weep  
with our tears,  
tears that rise from fear,  
doubt and illusion.**

**Restore us, O Holy One;  
let your face shine upon us,  
teach us to hope!**

*(Psalm 80 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill)*

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**~ Listening ~**

**Hymn: *Psalm 80 - Part 1***

**Voices United, page 794**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

**Holy One, we pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you  
will open our hearts and our minds to your mystery and grace.  
Guide us to the truth and wisdom we most need to hear,  
as we listen for your still small voice in our sacred story.  
Amen.**

**Reading:** Mark 13:24-27

**Response:**

In this reading we hear God's voice.

**The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.**

**Message:** After the suffering . . .

**Anthem:** *Creator of the Stars of Night*

~ Responding ~

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Music**

**Offertory Response:**

**Voices United #55**

*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.*

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the peace you give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have, our time, talents and treasure for your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

~ Sacrament of Holy Communion ~

**Invitation to the Table**

**Hymn:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verses 1,2,6,7) **Voices United #1**

**Communion Prayers**

God is with us!

**We are not alone!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life – a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love. You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life — that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus and Benedictus)*                      More Voices #203**

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate, he offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember . . .

### **The Bread**

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

### **The Cup**

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

### ***Memorial Acclamation***

**More Voices #204**

**All: Longing to experience and share  
the fullness of Life that you offer,  
we take these gifts that you have given us,  
this bread and this cup,  
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us  
through Jesus Christ.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way, that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.

In the eating of this bread, as the substance of Christ's teachings,  
and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's passionate love,  
we invite your life to fill us;  
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully  
to be the body of Christ in the world.

All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever.  
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation  
of our faith:

**Great Amen**

**More Voices #205**

**Sharing the meal**

*(Our communion is gluten free and will be served by intinction.)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Holy, gracious, God,  
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.  
We have rested in the depth of your love;  
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;  
We accept your Spirit into our bodies, into our lives.  
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.  
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.  
And we give you thanks.**

**\*Closing Hymn: *All Earth is Waiting***

**Voices United #5**

**\*Commissioning**

**\*Sung Benediction:**

**We Are Walking a Path of Hope**

words & music Janet Bauman Tissandier

We are walk - ing a path of hope, we are  
walk - ing a path of hope, we are walk - ing a path of  
hope, lead us home,\_\_\_ lead us home.\_\_\_ We are home.---

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**Postlude**

## Coming Up!

### **Bible Study - Mondays -10:30 - 11:30 am**

All are welcome to join Lee-Ann. If you'd like to, you can do advance text and commentary reading via *workingpreacher.org* or *textweek.com*

December 4 - Isaiah 40:1-11

December 11 - Luke 1:46b-55

December 18 - John 1:1-18

December 25 & 31 - No bible study

### **Staff Meeting - Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 11 am**

**Arts Circle** – Thurs.,  
Dec 7 - 1:30 pm

Bring art supplies to draw, paint, create, and share your love of the arts! All welcome!

### **The Christmas Claymation Project with Jo - Thursday, Dec. 9 – 6 pm**

### **White Gift Sunday** – Sunday, December 10, 10:30 am

Please bring a gift on White Gift Sunday to help fill the White Gift wish list for Youth Without Shelter. Items should not be white gift wrapped, but maybe decorated with a ribbon or bow. The staff needs to be able to direct items to appropriate recipients. Suggested gift items are posted on the Welcome Board and on the church website

**Cookies and Christmas Carols** – Monday, December 11, 7 pm.  
Information posted on the bulletin board and on the website.



*Thank you to Northlea's own Christmas elves! Sharyn Varty, Susan Nelson and Rosalind Dekker created a beautiful Christmas spirit here at Northlea! The decorations are wonderful! And thank you to Brad Nameth and Stan Murray who hung up the beautiful star! Thank you!*



### **Candlelight Service Refreshments**

Each year after the Candlelight service Northlea is delighted to invite all the guests and choir members to the Community Room to enjoy a time of refreshment and to catch up with each other during the busy Advent season. If you can help with the treats, please sign up on the flip chart outside the Community Room. Please note that the organizers would appreciate finger food (things that don't need plates or utensils) such as cookies, squares, loaves and fruit, cut up and brought in on a disposable plate or on a well-labeled plate with your name on it. We thank you for your generosity and kindness.

### **Come a-Wassailing**

To all you merry gentlemen and ladies. Come a-wassailing (aka carolling) with us as we visit members who are homebound, our war veterans in Sunnybrook and a few streets in north Leaside. It's happening on Friday, December 8th. We will meet outside the church at 6:30 sharp, when routes will be shared along with the song sheets for the five carols we'll be singing. We can car pool from here. Please let Bev V. ([b.vanstone@bell.net](mailto:b.vanstone@bell.net)) or Marnie P. ([marniephoenix@hotmail.com](mailto:marniephoenix@hotmail.com)) know if you plan to join in!



*The 16<sup>th</sup> and concluding meeting of the Refugee Support Group was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Those present felt that the aim of the group had been fulfilled and that we should close this group. To all of those who have participated over the past more than two years (our first meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015) we extend our thanks and appreciation for all the support that has been given, the energy expended, the funds raised, the fellowship enjoyed, and the visions enhanced. This journey to sponsor a family and support the refugee community locally was different because each member who attended at any point made their own unique contribution. To all of you we send our thanks and appreciation and wish you every joy in whatever journey you make in the future.*

Roy Bennett

## **This Year's Mitten Tree**



Please help to decorate the tree with mittens, scarfs, hats, socks, toiletries, baby clothes (new born to 3 years old) – all to be distributed to the CRC (Christian Resource Centre) and Massey Centre a couple of weeks before Christmas.

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Pyjama Project**



*New pyjamas needed in all sizes for women and children (boys, girls and infants) in four Toronto shelters. Donations can be made from mid-November to mid-December at Northlea United Church and at Becky's home, 49 Glenvale Blvd. (bin will be on front porch). Each year the need and response has been growing! This year, the goal is to collect*

*300 pairs of pyjamas. This Drive benefits Nellie's, Street Haven, Amelie House, and The Redwood. More info is posted on the website and the bulletin board.*

## **U.C.W. - New Circles HOLIDAY ANGEL PROGRAM Grocery Gift Card Donation Event - November 19 to December 3**

U.C.W. is supporting New Circles HOLIDAY ANGEL PROGRAM this year by donating grocery gift cards from FOOD BASICS, NO FRILLS or WALMART in available denominations of \$25 or \$50. More information can be found posted on the bulletin board. Look for Lucy Platt in the New Circles RED APRON at Northlea on November 26 and December 3. Lucy is responsible for accepting the grocery gift cards and cash donations to purchase gift cards on behalf of the U.C.W as well as delivering the grocery gift cards and income tax receipt information to New Circles by the first week in December. *More info can be found*

*We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the Mississauga peoples who came to this place long before us, and our responsibility for the territory wherein our church resides.*