



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

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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: Anne and Stan Murray

Reading: Margaret Rieger

Sound Technician: Bev Vanstone

Kitchen Hospitality: Alison Symington and Becky White

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

Music Director: David Jafelice david@northleaunited.ca

Administrative Coordinator: Barb Ferguson barb@northleaunited.ca

Facility Manager: Robert Pringle building@northleaunited.ca

Cool Church Coordinator: Daniel Stefan danielstefanmusic@gmail.com

Youth Leader: Jo Dullard jo@northleaunited.ca



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

Northlea United Church

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

White Gift Sunday

Leading the Service - Lay Worship Circle

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ambury Stuart

Music Director - David Jafelice

() 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 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

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

In the beginning was the Word—

spoken and breathed,

a promise made and kept.

Speak it loud and clear—

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.

Do not hold back!

Speak out, giving voice to God's peace that passes all understanding.

~candle is lit~

Greetings of Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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:

O Beloved, how gracious you are
to your people;
You restore their souls time and time again.
Listen, O people, in the silent chapel
of your heart; and the beloved will speak of
peace to you,
to the hidden saints, to all who
turn their hearts to love.
Mercy and compassion are love's way;
You will guide our footsteps
upon the path of peace
as we recognize with open hearts
that You are our peace.

(Psalm 85 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: *Beyond the Beauty and the Awe*
(verses 1 to 3)

More Voices #80

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: Isaiah 40:1-11

Response:

In this reading we hear God's voice.

The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Message: Home for Christmas

Rev. Ambury Stuart

Anthem: *In You There is a Refuge*

More Voices #84

~ 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.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: *People Look East*

Voices United #9

*Commissioning

*Sung Benediction:

Janet Bauman Tissandier

I Am Walking a Path of Peace

words & music Janet Bauman Tissandier

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. A repeat sign follows. The first line of lyrics is: "We are walk - ing a path of peace, we are". The second line of lyrics is: "walk - ing a path of peace, we are walk - ing a path of". The third line of lyrics is: "peace, lead us home,___ lead us home.___ We are home.___". Above the final two measures of the third line, there are two boxes: "Repeats" and "Last time".

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Postlude

We welcome Rev. Ambury Stuart as the bearer of the message for us this morning. He served as minister at Glebe Road United Church for ten years before his retirement in 2013. He was also one of the Presbytery representatives at the talks between Northlea and Bedford Park that led to our amalgamation earlier this year.

TONIGHT!!!
CAROLLING IN THE PINES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 7:00 P.M.

Sing with friends and neighbours at this annual event! The Metropolitan Silver Band leads the carolling; a special visitor (Ho, Ho, Ho!) will be dropping in, and there will be lots of hot chocolate! It's an outside event, lasting about 45 minutes, so dress warmly and bring a flashlight! (Bad weather location – inside the church!) We are fundraising for **Youth Without Shelter** - donations are appreciated!



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 11 - Luke 1:46b-55

December 18 - John 1:1-18

December 25 & 31 - No bible study

Cookies and Christmas Carols – Monday, December 11, 7pm.

Information posted on the bulletin board and on the website.

Arts Circle – Thurs., Dec 14 - 1:30 pm

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

Choir Practices – Thurs. Dec. 14, 7 – 7:30 pm, 7:30 – 10 pm

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Saturday, Dec. 16 - 10 am – 1 pm.

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 17th, 10:30 am

Candlelight Carol Service - Sunday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m.

Hear the Christmas story with music and scripture, and join in singing Christmas carols. Following the service, enjoy homemade Christmas goodies with friends and neighbours.



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.

Christmas Eve Services - December 24th

The 10:30 am Sunday Service will be held at Leaside Presbyterian Church. Both churches are holding a family service, and we have invited our friends from Leaside Presbyterian Church to join our 11 pm service.

Family service ~ 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Christmas Eve service with pageant. Children, youth and adults will be welcomed to don costumes and participate in telling the story.

Candles and Communion Service ~ 11:00 p.m.

Join us for communion, carols and a reflection on the gift of Christmas.



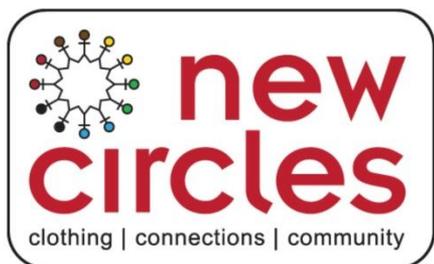
This Year's Mitten Tree

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 9th 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.



On behalf of the U.C.W., I would like to thank you for the simply sensational support we received the last 3 Sundays collecting donations of grocery gift cards and funds for the purchase of grocery gift cards to be donated to New Circles Holiday Angel Program. All

of the grocery gift cards were delivered to New Circles by December 6 to be included in *Holiday Angel Program* gift baskets. Those gift baskets will be delivered to New Circles client recipients within hours of their receipt. Your grocery gift card donations will make a profound difference this holiday season to clients of New Circles many of whom are new Canadians. The hopeful dream of preparing and sharing a really special family meal celebrating a country and season of hope, peace, love and joy will be realized.

- Nurturing Body and Spirit at Northlea -

...with warm Red Apron regards,
Lucy

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.