



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca 416-425-5252

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: Joanne and Jamie Procnier, Joyce and Roger Touw

Reading: Joyce Touw

Sound Technician: Roy Bennett

Kitchen Hospitality: Rosalind and John Dekker

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 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
Christmas Pageant

Minister - Lee-Ann Ahlstrom
Music Director - David Jafelice
Youth and Children - Jo Dullard and Daniel Stefan

(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 the Way of the Lord

Prepare! Prepare!

Ostinato Refrain Stephen Pishner

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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff is the Ostinato Refrain, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are: '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 second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'The Lord our God is com- ing soon. Oh.' The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics 'The Lord our God is com- ing soon. Oh.' are aligned with the notes. There are some accents and slurs in the notation, and a circled '1' above the final note.

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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

*Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.*

*Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

In the beginning was the Word —

spoken and breathed,

a promise made and kept.

**Persevere in hope, keep the faith —
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.

Keep going!

Persevere in joy, giving voice to God's presence yet again.

~ candle is lit ~

Greetings of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

The congregation is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Sung Response: Maranatha

More Voices #19

Opening Prayer:

**Who are we, O God,
that you should come to us?
Yet you have visited your people
and redeemed us in your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near.** *(Voices United #25)*

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 ~

Anthem: Magnificat

Reading: John 1:1-5; 14-18

Hymn: *Hope is a Star

Voices United #7

The Holy Family Story – Revisited

Written by Lee-Ann Ahlstrom, Jo Dullard, and Donna Rutz
Narrator: Diana Bennett

Once Upon a Time

Gabriel, Joseph, Mary and the Shepherds
Ron Scott, Ben Zacharopoulos, Mya Gilland,
Will Steeves and Henry Steeves

***Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* Voices United #38**

Holy Good News!

Angels, Shepherds, Gabriel, Wise Ones, Herod and Mary
Rita Donelan, Sandra Winter, Daniella Khoudary, Pamela Khoudary,
Jackie Morris, Sara Robertson, Megan Robertson, Samantha Dodge,
Makenzie Gilland, Sophia Buligan, Julian Zacharopoulos

~ Responding ~

Invitation to the Offering

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

Voices United #69

*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: *Hark the Glad Sound (vs 1 & 4)* Voices United #29

*Commissioning

*Sung Benediction:

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 (C). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A repeat sign follows. The first line of lyrics is: "We are walk - ing a path of joy, we are". The second line of lyrics is: "walk - ing a path of joy, we are walk - ing a path of". The third line of lyrics is: "joy, lead us home, lead us home. We are home." Above the final two lines of the melody, there are two boxes: "Repeats" and "Last time". The score ends with a double bar line.

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Postlude

A heartfelt thank you to the 16 singers and 6 band members from North Toronto Community Church Band who made our evening of Wassailing a big success. We made more stops through the neighbourhood than planned, which allowed many people to enjoy our unexpected musical performance. Along with carols we included Happy Birthday for Lisa Parsons. The band brought big brass sound and spirit to the occasion making it a memorable evening for all of us and a good warm up to Carolling in the Pines. *Bev and Marnie*



The biggest crowd yet was here at Northlea for our 9th Annual Carolling in the Pines last Sunday night! Thank you to Steve and Laura Jarvis for organizing, for Glen Earl and his hot chocolate stand, the elves and to Santa for visiting, to the Metropolitan Silver Band and to everyone who gave generously to **Youth Without Shelter** that evening!
Above: Some pictures sent in by Roy Bennett of Carolling in the Pines.

Thank You from Youth Without Shelter

Judy Leroux at Youth Without Shelter was delighted and surprised on Monday to receive the generous donation of White Gifts from Northlea United Church. She thanks us profusely. These anonymous gifts at this time of year help to relieve the sad belief of street kids that nobody cares for their welfare. The gifts also support the efforts of the caring staff that they are not alone in their efforts to provide a more home-like environment at the shelter. *Rick Coombs*

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 18 - John 1:1-18 **December 25 & 31** - No bible study

Youth Room Clean Out - Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 am. The staff are getting together to do a little sorting out of the Youth Room and the Audio/Visual Cupboard next Tuesday. Any helping hands would be welcome!! Let any of us know if you will be able to join us!

Honouring Memories - Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 pm (see insert)

Winter Solstice Service - from dark into the light. Invitation to walk the labyrinth, Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30pm.

Trustees Meeting - Wednesday, Dec. 20, 8 pm.

Arts Circle - Thurs., Dec. 21, 1:30 pm - *Bring art supplies to draw, paint, create, and share your love of the arts! All welcome!*

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.

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.