



## Northlea United Church

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

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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: Bob Atkinson, Roy Bennett, Doug Joyce

Reading: Diana Bennett

Sound Technician: Ron Scott

Kitchen Hospitality: Lois and Ron Scott

*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 outside the church office.*

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)

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 31, 2017**

Minister - Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

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: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Voices United #44**

**Announcements, Joys and Concerns**

**Call to Worship:**

Beloved children come and listen!

**We hear the call of Love, ringing in our ears.**

Come and see!

**We see the light of stars and candles, leading the way.**

Come with wonder!

**We long for a sign, an experience, to know God face to face.**

Come and share!

**We come, to be part of God's story of Love.**

My beloved children come and celebrate!

**Sung Response: *Joy to the World (verse 1 only)* Voices United #59**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**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: *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (Verse 1)***

**Voices United #73**

**Opening Prayer:**

**O Blessed One we welcome you!  
You have come to be with us intimately.  
Your hope is the breath that gives us life  
and animates our creative being.  
Your peace is the patience we nurture  
in our families and community.  
Your joy is the laughter and friendship we cultivate  
at work, at home, in our church.  
Your love is all the ways we are vulnerable  
to you and to each other.  
On this day, as we ponder the coming New Year,  
may we offer our gratitude for every breath.  
Grant us patience as we follow your will.  
Bring us friendship to expand and enrich our happiness.  
Foster in us humility, so that we might love more deeply.**

**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 away  
from temptation, and deliver us from evil: for thine is the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**~ Listening ~**

**\*Hymn: *Joy Is Now in Every Place***

**Voices United #45**

**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: Galatians 4:4-7**

**Response:**

In this reading we hear God's voice.

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

**Message:** Grace with Benefits

~ 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, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**\*Closing Hymn: *Go, Tell it on the Mountain***

**Voices United #43**

**\*Commissioning**

**\*Sung Benediction: *Gloria (English text)***

**Voices United #37**

**Postlude**

**2017 Givings and Tax Receipts**

2017 is coming to an end and if you would like to make a donation to the church it needs to be at the church by Sunday, January 7, 2018. To be considered a 2017 charitable donation, you can write a cheque dated in 2017 or use a 2017 offering envelope. Tax receipts will be coming out mid-January. Thank you.



*Hello Northlea United donors:  
Thank You for your generous donations  
of lovely warm, hats, mittens, scarves.  
Some added socks, sweaters and toys to  
the mitten tree donations. Your kindness  
is greatly appreciated by those who don't  
have enough to keep warm in winter.  
Special thanks go to Robert Pringle for  
assembling and taking down the mitten  
tree and to Dale Blayney for knitting  
dozens of scarves, even when she has  
arthritis in her fingers. That's the way to  
keep those hands in shape! June made  
deliveries to the Massey Centre and  
Christian Resource Centre.*

*Christmas Blessings to You and Yours.*

*Submitted on behalf of the United Church Women of Northlea*

### **Spring Retreat Planning Session**

Paris in the spring? Anyone interested in joining us to plan our spring retreat is invited to meet at the church Thursday, January 4 at 2 pm. The gathering should be about 1 1/2 hours. If you cannot attend, or simply prefer to send us your thoughts as to what should take place at our retreat, feel free to send to [marniephoenix@hotmail.com](mailto:marniephoenix@hotmail.com). The Spring Retreat (April 14 and 15th) will give us opportunities to play and learn together, for community and faith building, while enjoying the wonders of nature.

### **CRC Lunch Program**

We have an opportunity to get involved with the Christian Resource Centre lunch program. This is an opportunity to connect with others in the Regent Park Area. Bev V. has organized an opportunity for those interested to car pool and visit the CRC on January 23rd, 2018 between 11 am and 1 pm to learn what might be involved. If you would like to join this group, please contact Bev at [b.vanstone@bell.net](mailto:b.vanstone@bell.net)