

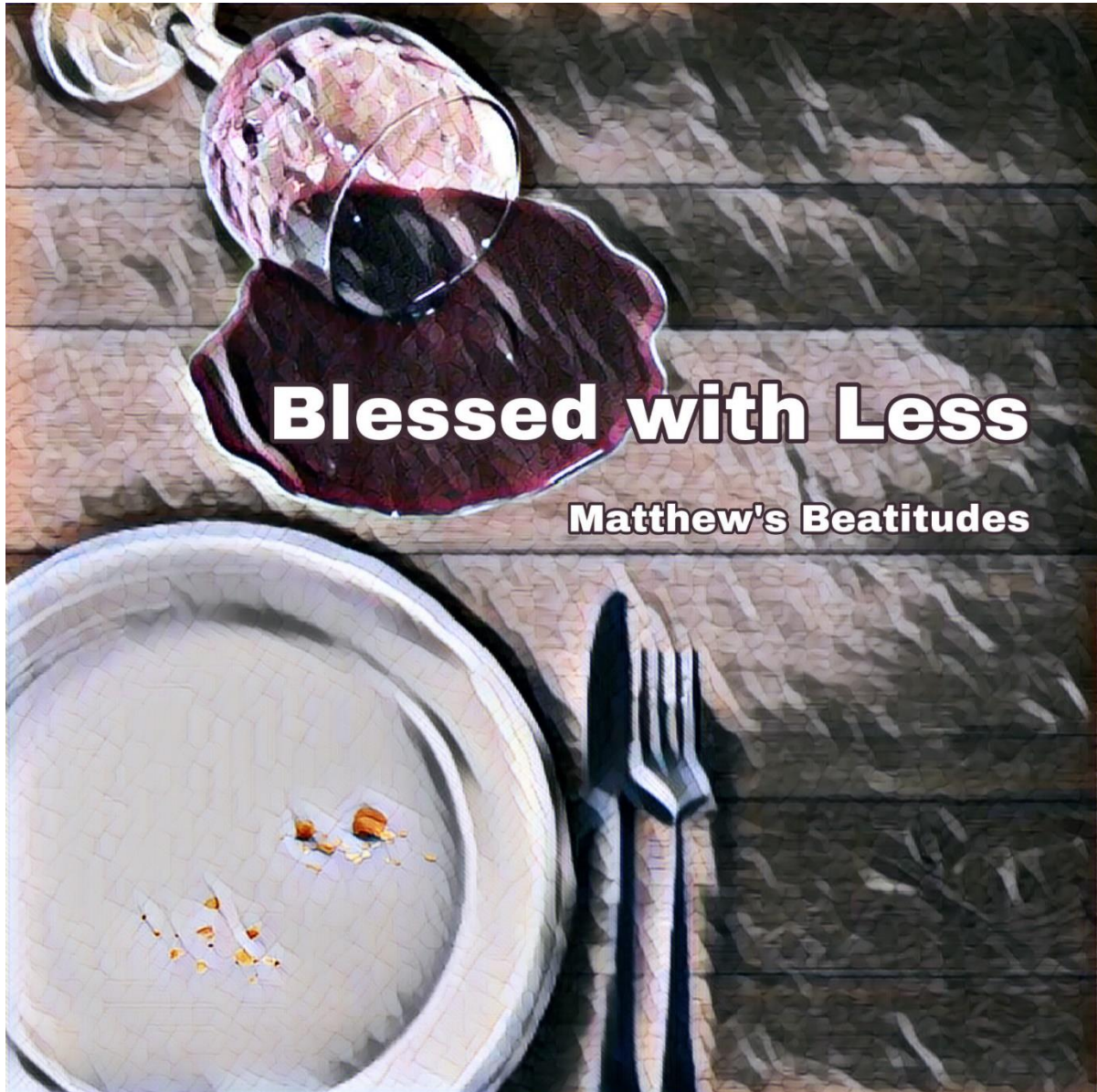


Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ~ 416-425-5252



January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

At Northlea United Church,
we encourage one another as we:
Love God ~ Connect with others
Nurture the spirit ~ Serve the world

Thank you for joining us for service today whether in-person or online. If there is anything we can do to improve your experience, please let us know by calling the church office at 416 425 5252 or emailing us at office@northleaunited.ca. There are many ways to access online videos whether live streamed or pre-recorded. The Northlea United Facebook page or our website will have links to our services:

Facebook:

Simply sign on to Facebook and search for the Northlea United page. You will find links there.

www.northleaunited.ca:

Visit our website. Links will be posted to our homepage for easy access.

Thank you for helping with today's service:

Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom - Presiding
David Jafelice - Music Director & Music Video Production
Kayla Ruiz, Soprano & Karen Davidson, Alto
Joshua Clemenger, Tenor & Tristan Zaba, Bass
Jo Dullard - Video Production, Donna Rutz - Social Media Support
Jesse Bigelow - Reader

Minister: Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom lee-ann@northleaunited.ca

Music Director: David Jafelice david@northleaunited.ca

Office Administrator: Tricia Reid office@northleaunited.ca

Facility Manager: Robert Pringle building@northleaunited.ca

Congregational & Community Outreach Coordinator: Jo Dullard jo@northleaunited.ca

Consider financially supporting Northlea United through Canada Helps (scan QR code) or by contacting the office to receive a Pre-Authorized Remittance form to set up automatic monthly donations or by mailing in your donation.



Please contact the church office if you would like more information

416 425 5252 or office@northleaunited.ca

** Unless otherwise indicated: Prayers (various) are taken from “The United Church of Canada - Gathering - resources for worship planners” Advent, Christmas, Epiphany – 2022/2023 Year A Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.8M 08/22 220003 CH11182

Northlea United Church
January 29, 2023

Prelude

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we worship on traditional land entrusted to us but belonging to the Creator. We are called to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the many First Nations, who came to this place long before us, and our responsibility for the treaty territory wherein our church resides. May we not take the land, its first people, and all its many gifts for granted.

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship

Happy are we
 when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Happy are we
 when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Happy are we
 when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Happy are we
 when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Happy are we
 when Christ gathers us to his table of grace.

We gather now to abide in the heart of Christ
where all are welcome.

~ adapted prayer written by Katherine Hawker (2006), and posted on Liturgy Outside.

Opening Hymn: Let Us Build a House (*All Are Welcome*) - (verse 3 by choir alone)

More Voices 1

Lighting of the Christ Candle

~ light the candle~

The light of Christ.
 Thanks be to God

The Gift of Peace

(Take a moment to turn and greet the gathered community with a smile and a bow of greeting)

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
we come this morning

seeking to abide in your presence.

Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom,
that we may know how to live as your people.

Open our hearts to your spirit of truth,
**that we may love all your people with a love
that speaks of justice, kindness,
and radical grace.**

May this time of worship
bear witness to our faith
and inspire in us new life. Amen.

~ Listening ~

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, stir us with your word,
as we listen for inspiration in your sacred story.
Amen

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesse Bigelow

In this reading we hear God's voice,
The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Anthem: Offertory

John Ness Beck

~ Responding ~

Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond?

Invitation to Communion

Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts

More Voices 12, vs. 1 & 5

~ Sacrament of Holy Communion ~

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



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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



Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come a - gain.

by David Jafelice, based on Mass of the Divine Word, Howard Hughes, SM. Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

**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

A - - men, a - - men, a - - - - men.

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Sharing the meal

(There are two layers in your fellowship cup. The top clear layer reveals the wafer and the foil layer reveals the juice.)

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: Be Thou My Vision

Voices United 642

Sending Forth:

The grace of Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Sung Amen:

Ken Canedo / Bob Hurd

A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

A - - men, A - - men, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

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Postlude

Reading Next Week

From *The Gathering*

Isaiah 58:1-9, 9-12; Psalm 112:1-9, 10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; 13-16; Matthew 5:13-20

To find out what's happening at Northlea United, visit northleaunited.ca.