



Northlea United Church

**In the community. For the community.**

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

[www.northleaunited.ca](http://www.northleaunited.ca) ~ 416-425-5252



**January 8, 2023**

**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](mailto: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](http://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  
Jackie Morris - Reader

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through Canada Helps by going to [www.northleaunited.ca](http://www.northleaunited.ca)  
signing up for PAR (Pre-Authorized Debit) through the church office  
mailing in your donation

Please contact the church office if you would like more information

**416 425 5252 or [office@northleaunited.ca](mailto: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 8, 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**

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,  
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

**Opening Hymn: In the Darkness Shines the Splendour**

**Voices United 92**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

We light the candle of Christ as a symbolic reminder that the Spirit is with us now.  
May we be drawn to, comforted by and led forth by the Spirit's grace filled glow.

~ light the candle~

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God**

## Opening Prayer

We have heard of your grace, Shaper of stars;  
**from those set free from injustice;**  
**from our children who whisper of your joy;**  
**from greeters of dawn's fresh start;**  
**from late risers who listen to the stories of the needy.**

We have heard of your Light, Bright Star of the morning:  
**which can illumine the shadows of our lives;**  
**which can show the path to God's heart;**  
**which can point the way to where we become servants of the gospel.**

We have heard of your promised peace, Wisdom's Radiance:  
**that peace which can end war, as well as heal our hearts;**  
**that peace which can conquer our fears, and flood us with faith;**  
**that peace which can enter our lives and overwhelm us with hope.**

We have heard of you, God in Community, Holy in One.  
**We gather now to receive your glory and proclaim it to all.**  
**Amen**

## The Gift of Peace:

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

~ Listening ~

## Prayer for Illumination:

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

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

Jackie Morris

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

**Reflection: Good Intentions**

~ Responding ~

**Anthem:** Far Away, What Splendour Comes This Way?

attrib. Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-87)  
arr. Georges Bizet (1838-75); adapt. Hugh Keyte & Andrew Parrott

## Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond?

What can I give him?  
Poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd  
I would give a lamb  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part  
But what I can I give him  
Give him my heart

## Prayers of the People:

### 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.

## Closing Hymn: Arise, Your Light Is Come

Voices United 79

## Sending Forth:

### Sung Amen:

Canedo/Hurd

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

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## Postlude



## **Reading Next Week**

From *The Gathering*

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

To find out what's happening at Northlea United, visit [northleaunited.ca](http://northleaunited.ca).