



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ~ 416-425-5252



February 19, 2023

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. Ambury Stuart – Guest Minister
David Jafelice - Music Director & Music Video Production
Lori Mak, Soprano & Karen Davidson, Alto
Joshua Clemenger, Tenor & Sean Pentinga, Bass
Jo Dullard - Video Production, Donna Rutz - Social Media Support
With help from the Lay Worship Circle

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
February 19, 2023

Welcome and thank you to Rev. Ambury Stuart for his leadership in this worship service.

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

Lois Scott

Joys and Concerns

Jackie Morris

Call to Worship:

From the coldest nights of winter
to the first welcome notes of spring,

we come to be transformed!

Just as Jesus changed and grew throughout his life,

we come to be transformed!

As we prepare to turn away from all those things
that would lead us from the path
to the Kingdom of God,

we come to be transformed!

Then let us sing together with all creation,

we come to be transformed!

Opening Hymn: How Good, Lord, to Be Here

Voices United 103

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ shines on us and in us.

The light of Christ leads us.

The light of Christ transforms us.

We light this candle in the certainty
that Christ's presence is here with us today.

~ 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:

God touches the world,
and the world changes.

God touches us,
and we are transformed.

In the brightness of day,
in the deepest part of night,

on mountain,
in valley,

Everywhere.

**In this time together,
we invite you, O God,
to open our hearts
to the transformation
of our lives
and of the world.**

And through the change-

let us know your presence with us.

We worship, O God, Alleluia! Amen.

~ Listening~

Prayer for Illumination:

Ambury Stuart

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

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-8

Ambury Stuart

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

Reflection: Mountain-Top Experiences

Ambury Stuart

~ Responding~

Anthem: Come Down, O Love Divine

Music: Hilary Tadman-Robins (b. 1947)

Text: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434). Trans. R. F. Littledale

Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond?

Ron Scott

We give the gifts of our offering, O God, knowing that all we have is a gift from you. Your creative wonder surrounds us every day, and the bounties of your world enable us to share what we have received. As we give thanks for what we have, encourage us to share these gifts for the care and service of others. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Ron Scott

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: Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Voices United 894

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.

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Postlude

Our Guest Minister today is Rev. Ambury Stuart

Rev. Ambury Stuart was one of the Presbytery representatives during the amalgamation discussions between Northlea and Bedford Park United, and has remained in touch with the new, combined congregation as an occasional supply worship leader ever since. He was ordained in 2004 after a 30-year career in environmental science and was the worship leader at Glebe Road United in the Yonge-Eglinton area for 10 years before his retirement from active ministry in 2013.

Ambury sees himself as both a scientist and a minister, and his sermons reflect this unusual combination of life-experience. In retirement, he continues to appreciate the opportunity to share his faith and his ideas with congregations such as Northlea. He and his spouse Victoria currently attend Fairlawn Avenue United where he is a Voluntary Associate Minister.

From *The Gathering*

Service of Ashes readings:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reading Next Week

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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