



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



**February 26, 2023**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

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  
Rick Coombs - Reader

**Minister:** Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom [lee-ann@northleaunited.ca](mailto:lee-ann@northleaunited.ca)

**Music Director:** David Jafelice [david@northleaunited.ca](mailto:david@northleaunited.ca)

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**Congregational & Community Outreach Coordinator:** Jo Dullard [jo@northleaunited.ca](mailto: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](mailto:office@northleaunited.ca)**

\*\* Unless otherwise indicated: Prayers (various) are taken from "The United Church of Canada - Gathering - resources for worship planners" Lent Easter – 2023 Year A Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.9M 10/22 220004 CH11183

**Northlea United Church**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**Prelude:** On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas, arr. Craig Kingsbury

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome**

**Joys and Concerns**

**The Gift of Peace**

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

**Lenten Proclamation:** based on Joel 2:15-16, and 2 Corinthians 6:2

James Chepponis

*Sound the trumpet in Zion! Sound the trumpet on earth! Sound the trumpet and listen.  
Proclaim a fast, call an assembly, gather the nations, tell all the people: now is the  
acceptable time, now is the day of salvation. Now is the time, now is the day, turn from your  
sins, return to the Lord. Sound the trumpet on earth!*

**Call to Worship**

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

**This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,

our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre

As part of our Lenten journey we will be invited to reflect on the words of various Lenten hymns. So as you sing together the following hymn, notice what word or phrase draws your attention.

## Opening Hymn: Led by the Spirit

Bob Hurd



1. Led\_ by the Spir - it of our God, we\_ go to fast\_ and pray
2. Led\_ by the Spir - it, we con - front temp - ta - tion face to face,
3. Led\_ by the Spir - it, now draw near the\_ wa - ters of\_ re - birth
4. Led\_ by the Spir - it, now sing praise to\_ God the Trin - i - ty:



With Christ in - to the wil - der - ness; we\_ join his pas - chal way.  
And know full well we must re - ply on\_ God's re - deem - ing grace.  
With hearts that long to wor - ship God in\_ spir - it and\_ in truth.  
The\_ Source of Life, the Liv - ing Word made flesh to set\_ us free,



“Rend not your gar - ments, rend your hearts. Turn back your lives to me.”  
On\_ bread a - lone\_ we can - not live, but\_ nour - ished by the Word.  
“Who - ev - er drinks the drink I give shall ne - ver\_ thirst a - gain.”  
The Spir - it blow - ing where it will to\_ make us\_ friends of God:



Thus says our kind and gra - cious God, whose reign is lib - er - ty.  
We\_ seek the will of\_ God to do: this is our drink and food.  
Thus says the Lord who died for us, our\_ Sav - ior, kin\_ and friend.  
This mys - t'ry far\_ be - yond our reach, yet\_ near in heal - ing love.

based on Joel 2:12–13; Matthew 4:1–4; Mark 1:12–15; John 4:5–42

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## Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Spirit leads us to join Christ’s paschal way, rending our hearts . . . turning our lives back to God. This is not a punishment, like going to the principal’s office for being a bad student. It’s more about coming home to the truth and grace that dwells within us . . . the truth and grace that Christ points us to. We are invited to journey with Christ, the Word made flesh, who nourishes us in our longing and sets us free through healing love.

Take a moment now and consider the word or phrase that caught your attention. What is it about that word or phrase that speaks to you? Does it challenge you or give you comfort?

**May the light of Christ shine into our hidden places this Lenten season, where love, truth and grace rest waiting to set us free.**

~ light the candle~

The light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God**

### Opening Prayer

**God, we come  
with hesitant steps  
and uncertain motives  
to sweep out the corners  
where sin has accumulated,  
and uncover the ways  
we have strayed from Your truth.  
Expose the empty and barren places  
where we don't allow you to enter.  
Reveal our half-hearted struggles  
where we have been indifferent  
to the suffering of others.  
Nurture the faint stirrings of new life,  
where your spirit has begun to grow.  
Let your healing light transform us  
into the image of Your Son.  
For You alone can bring new life  
and make us whole.**

Written by Christine Sine

~ Listening ~

### Prayer for Illumination

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

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11

Rick Coombs

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

**Reflection: Led by the Spirit**

~ Responding ~

**Anthem:** Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant (1530-1580)  
text from Lydley's Prayers 1566

**Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond?**

God of the Cross, in losing our lives we find them in you. In sharing our gifts, we receive the blessings of your Kingdom. Use our many and varied gifts toward your holy work of peace, justice, and service in the world. Amen

**Prayers for the Season of Lent**

**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: Forty Days and Forty Nights**

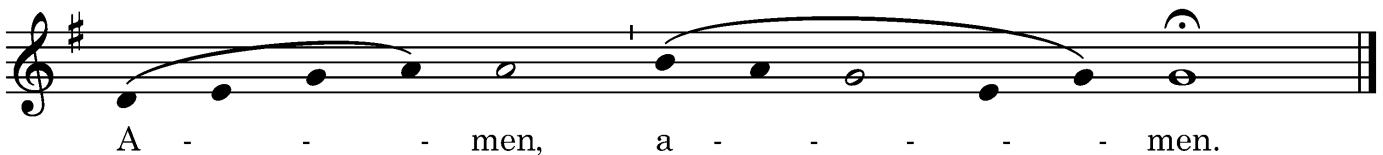
Voices United 114

**Sending Forth:**

As you continue on this Lenten journey,  
may the grace of Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**Sung Amen:**

Christopher Walker



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**Reading Next Week**

From *The Gathering*

Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

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