



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ~ 416-425-5252



March 19, 2023
Fourth 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. 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. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair – Guest Minister

David Jafelice - Music Director

Kayla Ruiz, Soprano & Karen Davidson, Alto

Michael Spiroff, Tenor & Tristan Zaba, Bass

Jo Dullard - Video Production, Donna Rutz - Social Media Support

With the help of the Lay Worship Circle

Anne Saunders - 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” Lent Easter – 2023 Year A Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.9M 10/22 220004 CH11183

Northlea United Church
Sunday, March 19, 2023

Welcome and thank you to Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair for his leadership in this worship service.

Prelude: Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine (The Canticle of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32)
(Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord) Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

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

Stephen Popiel

Call to Worship:

Lois Scott

Though we were once in the dark about things, now we have known the power of light.

Let us live as those at home in the light. For where light is, all good springs to life. All justice, all adventure, all faith.

Today we revisit Rory Cooney's *Jerusalem My Destiny*. In particular, verses 3 and 4, see below.

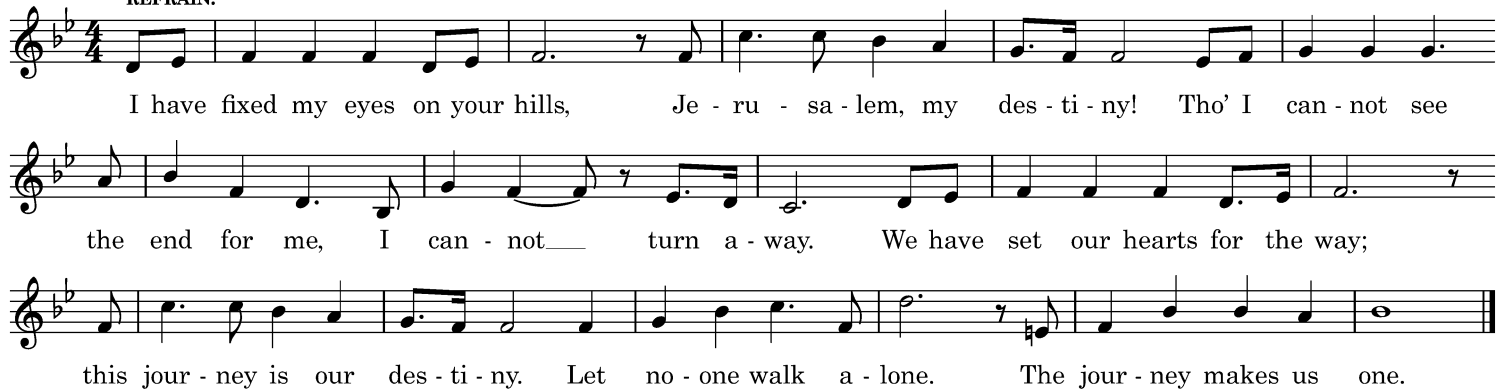
How is it that we meet the saviour, Jesus Christ among us?

What world(s) has Christ opened into view that you had not seen before?

What might be Christ's new and bright vision among you?

Opening Hymn: Jerusalem My Destiny

REFRAIN:



I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my des - ti - ny! Tho' I can - not see
the end for me, I can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the way;
this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let no - one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one.

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Verse 3:

In my thirst, you let me drink the waters of your life.

Here among you I have met the savior, Jesus Christ. *Refrain*

Verse 4:

All the worlds I have not seen you open to my view.

Here among you I have found a vision, bright and new. *Refrain*

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Encounters with Jesus this Lent have been intimate conversations and connections with people from various walks of life. It seems relationship with Jesus inevitably challenges our paradigms, offers us a spiritual path for embracing difference and diversity and enables us to see with new eyes, lighting the way of hope and peace . . .

~ 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:

Rev. Sinclair

There is blindness in the heart of things: the touch of the cloyingly familiar, the feel of the too predictable. The fear of deeper truth, the ridiculing of nobler love.

We stumble from culture into worship, groping our way along the pews, straining to hear an enlightening word. Desiring your touch of comfort on our aching eyes.

And you are here, in energy, grace and truth. We pray to see you face to face as we live into our place in time.

~ Listening ~

Prayer for Illumination:

Anne Saunders

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

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-13

Anne Saunders

John 9: 24-38

Rev. Sinclair

In these readings we hear God's voice,

The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Reflection: "Burns' Certainty", or why the culture hates the church!

~ Responding ~

Anthem: Brother James' Air (Marosa) – (Psalm 23)

arranged by Gordon Jacob

Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond? Diana Bennett

We give the gifts of our time, talent and treasure, O God, knowing that all that we have, has come as a gift from you. Your creative wonder surrounds us every day, and the bounties of your world enable us to share all that we have. As we give thanks for all that we have received, encourage us to share these gifts for the care, sustenance and support of those who are in need both here at home and around the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Diana Bennett

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: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Voices United 326

Sending Forth:

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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Our Guest Minister today is Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair is retired. He was the preacher at Metropolitan United Church, downtown, for thirty years until early 2019. He is now Minister Emeritus there.

Malcolm has been ordained for 53 years and served four congregations in Toronto. He has also preached across Canada, and in various international settings.

These days, he quietly reimagines the church, and writes poetry daily, in a rather reclusive life. His wife, Elspeth, and the family dog enjoy the family, the cottage and the respite after a full life of public performance

and daily pastoral responsibility.

Reading Next Week

From The Gathering

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

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

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS:

Sunday, March 19, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 10:30 am - Worship with Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel.
- Easter Flower Tribute collection begins! Be sure to get your envelope and make your dedication.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

- 11:00 am - Spring Chair Exercise Class begins - Classes will run until April 26, 2023 - Join any time.
- 7:00 pm - Council Meeting on [Zoom](#)

Saturday, March 25, 2023 - 8:30 - 9:30 pm - Earth Hour celebration and campfire, hot chocolate, sing-a-long

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 10:30 am Worship with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom. Rob Oliphant will be our guest speaker. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel.
- 5:00 pm Youth Without Shelter Dinner

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 - 11:00 am - All Staff Meeting in-person.

EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday, April 2, 2023 - 10:30 am - Palm Sunday - with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel. Last day for the Flower Tribute contributions.

Thursday, April 6, 2023 - 2:00 pm - Maundy Thursday service - Leaside United has invited Northlea United to attend service at Leaside United at 822 Millwood Road.

Friday, April 7, 2023 - 10:30 am - Good Friday Worship - with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel. Leaside Presbyterian has been invited to Northlea United for Worship.

Sunday, April 9, 2023 - 10:30 am - Easter Sunday - with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel. After service, the Lay Visitors Circle is looking for volunteers to take designated flower arrangements to the homebound.

EVERY WEEK...

Sunday Service at 10:30 am online and in-person. Access the live stream through the [website](#) or the [YouTube](#) channel. You can access recorded services on [YouTube](#) any time.

Wednesdays from March 22 to April 26, 2023 - 11:00 am - Spring Chair Exercise Class begins - Classes will run until April 26, 2023 - Join any time.

Thursday Art Circle at 1:30 pm in-person in the Community Room. All are welcome.

Thursday Choir Practice at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Friday Bible Study at 2:30 pm on [Zoom](#).