



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ~ 416-425-5252



March 26, 2023
Fifth 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. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom – Presiding

Guest Speaker – The Honourable Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant

David Jafelice - Music Director

Kayla Ruiz, Soprano & Karen Davidson, Alto

Joshua Clemenger, Tenor & Tristan Zaba, Bass

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

Joshua Clemenger - 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

About today's guest speaker – The Honourable Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant, P.C., M.P. was elected as the Member of Parliament for Don Valley West in 2021, having been elected previously in 2008, 2015 and 2019.

In 2019, Rob was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He has served in this role continuously since then working with the Hon. Chrystia Freeland, François-Philippe Champagne, and Marc Garneau. He is currently Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Melanie Joly.

Rob served as Co-Chair of the House of Commons and Senate Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying (2015-16), as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (2015-17), and as Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (2017-2019). Rob's legislative accomplishments include an Act which outlaws discrimination against genetic characteristics as well as an Act he co-sponsored which created a national dementia strategy. He has been actively engaged in social and economic justice issues, housing for vulnerable Canadians, welcoming of refugees and newcomers, gender justice, the inclusion of people with disabilities, LGBTQ2S and other human rights issues.

Rob received his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto and worked in industry as a Systems Accountant. An Ordained Minister in the United Church of Canada, he has a Master of Divinity from the Vancouver School of Theology, at the University of British Columbia and served congregations in Newfoundland, Quebec, Yukon and Toronto, with his last congregation being Eglinton St. George's United Church where he served as senior minister for 9 years. He earned a Doctorate from the Chicago Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago in 2008 with a focus on the use of the arts in preaching. He is currently a Voluntary Associate Minister at Leaside United Church. From 2011 until 2015 he was President and CEO of the Asthma Society of Canada.

About today's hymn *Led by the Spirit* by Bob Hurd

Led by the Spirit was written by Bob Hurd. "He is a very prolific post-Vatican II liturgical music composer, writer of such well-known songs as Pan de Vida (1993), In the Breaking of the Bread (1984), and Gather Your People (1991). A perusal of Hurd's songs will reveal quite clearly an emphasis on ecclesial unity. . . . In his new book, *Compassionate Christ, Compassionate People: Liturgical Foundations of Christian Spirituality*, Hurd proves himself to be not only a talented musician and song artist but a capable theologian as well. While his theological mind was well at work in his liturgical music, he is here able to put that pastoral experience to work in a sustained attempt to demonstrate how the praying of the liturgy serves as the foundation for a healthy Christian spirituality." <https://catholicbooksreview.org/2020/hurd.html>

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

Today we welcome Guest Speaker: The Honourable Rev. Dr. Rob Oliphant

Prelude: I Am the Resurrection (*John 11:25-26*)

Thomas Tomkins (1527-1656)

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:

The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

O God, you know!

We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

O God, you know!

The gift is sure and unmistakable:

God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

In Bob Hurd's hymn *Led by the Spirit*, he points our attention to the God the Trinity, naming the three persons of the Trinity, Source of Life, Living Word made flesh and the Spirit. Traditionally the language is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What names for the three persons of the Trinity allow you to feel a deeper connection? Which "person" of the Trinity do you feel the strongest connection to?

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 community of God is a dynamic relationship between the Author of creation, the manifestation of God's sacrificial love in Jesus and the transformational power of the Spirit. Each of these shares in the mutual giving and receiving of love and grace. It is into this community of friendship that we are welcomed, healed and transformed. May the light of Christ shine upon us and lead our way.

~ 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:

**Compassionate God,
the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life
for all who long for you.
One breath from you and we are
rescued from the arid valley of dry bones,
given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you,
and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children.
Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,
that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom,
and what looks to us to be death
may be revealed as but sleep
before the emergence of new life. Amen.**

~ from *Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley.
Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

~ Listening ~

Prayer for Illumination:

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

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Joshua Clemenger

John 11:1-45

Honourable Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant

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

Reflection:

Honourable Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant

~ Responding ~

Anthem: Processional Psalm for Lent (*Psalm 130*)

Richard Proulx

Offering our Gifts: How shall we respond?

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: How Firm a Foundation

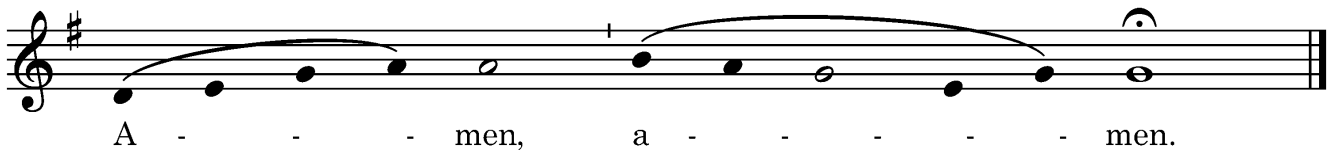
Voices United 660

Sending Forth:

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*

Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66; Matthew 27:11-54

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

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.

Upcoming in April...

- **Wednesday, April 12, 2023** at 7:00 pm - Taizé
- **Sunday, April 16, 2023** at 5:00 pm – Love Jazz
- **Tuesday, April 18, 2023** at 7:00 pm – All My Relations Webinar

More details to come. Check your Weekly Newsbites!

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 now until 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.