



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



**April 30, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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

Kayla Ruiz, Soprano & Karen Davidson, Alto

Joshua Clemenger, Tenor & Tristan Zaba, Bass

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

Dianna Bennett - 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)

**Office Administrator:** Tricia Reid [office@northleaunited.ca](mailto:office@northleaunited.ca)

**Facility Manager:** Robert Pringle [building@northleaunited.ca](mailto:building@northleaunited.ca)

**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  
April 30, 2023**

**Choral Prelude:** Brother James' Air (Psalm 23)

arranged by Gordon Jacob

**Welcome**

**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.*

**Joys and Concerns**

**Call to Worship:**

As a good shepherd with their flock of sheep,  
so is God's loving care.  
Nothing can separate us from God's loving care.  
We find strength in that love,  
fulfillment in that love,  
freedom in that love,  
acceptance in that love,  
and joy in that love.  
And so, we are ready to worship  
and give thanks to God for that love.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

**Opening Hymn: The Day of Resurrection**

**Voices United 164**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

~ 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:**

O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.

When we experience lack and loss:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When we walk through the valleys of uncertainty, fear, evil, death:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When we need correction and guidance:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When you provide wisdom and healing:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When your goodness and steadfast loving-kindness pursue us:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When you receive us in your abode and provide a feast for us:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When all your people and creation sing together:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

Amen.

~ Listening ~

**Hymn: Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone**

**Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, see page 10**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

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

Amen

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

**Reflection: The Gate of Peace**

~ Responding ~

**Anthem: Alleluia**

William Boyce (1711-1779)

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

**Invitation to Communion**

This is the table of the risen Christ.

**In this feast comes the root of our hope.**

In this feast gleams the promise of the earth  
and the glory of all creation

**In this feast comes the Christ,  
Saviour and Friend to all.**

~ The Sacrament of Holy Communion ~

**Response to Invitation: I Come with Joy**

Voices United 477, verses 1, 4, 5

**Communion Prayers**

Holy God, we praise you.

Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world,  
for your promises to your people Israel,  
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.

Guiding the children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us.

Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Raised from the dead, he gives new life.

Living with you, he prays for us.

**We remember the Bread**

**We remember the Cup**

We remember that on the evening before his arrest,  
Jesus blessed and broke the bread saying this is my body broken for you.  
Eat it in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup and after offering the blessing, he passed it to his friends saying,  
take and drink of this cup, it is my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.

**With thanksgiving we too take this bread and this cup  
and proclaim the hope in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.**

Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us who gather,  
that this meal may be our communion in the body of Christ.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

**Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,  
that we may serve as your faithful disciples  
and feast at your table in glory.**

### **Prayers of the Community**

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we are safe and secure. Within your embrace we know that we are precious in your sight. Within your embrace we feel the warmth of family and belonging. Within your embrace we grow and are nurtured together as one flock, the people of your pasture under your loving care and protection.

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find comfort and healing. We bring to you those who are weak, or struggling with physical, mental or spiritual health. You are the great healer, and we pray for healing of mind and body for those we now name in the silence of our hearts.

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find justice. We bring to you the brave voices who cry out for freedom, those prepared to stand up and be heard without counting the cost. We pray for those who have been imprisoned or tortured for their race, colour, caste or faith. For all Christians who have taken up the Cross and know its weight and pain.

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find peace. We bring to you those orphaned, crippled or dispossessed by war, for refugees wandering this earth in search of a home, for all victims of strife and warfare, and for all those who have dedicated their lives for the search for peace and reconciliation.

Good Shepherd, gather us into your care as we join together at your Holy table.

**We have come.  
Feed us now with your grace and send us with humble gratitude.**

## Sharing in the Meal

*(We are now invited to come forward to receive the gift of bread and juice. Come as you are, come as you are able. If you cannot make the walk forward for any reason and wish to partake you can raise your hand and I will come to you. Once you receive your fellowship cup, return to your seat and we will all eat and drink together at the same time.)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We praise you, eternal God,  
through Christ your Word made flesh,  
and in the power of your life-giving Spirit,  
now and forever.**

**Amen**

## Closing Hymn: Celtic Alleluia

Fintan O'Carroll/Christopher Walker

Al - le - - lu - - ia, al - le - - lu - - ia.

Al - le - - lu - - ia, al - le - - lu - - ia!

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1. The right hand of God raised me up. The hand of the Lord has triumphed.  
I shall never die, I shall live telling God's deeds
2. The stone which the builders rejected, becomes the cornerstone chosen.  
Praise the work of God for this marvel in our eyes.

## Sending Forth:

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd,  
and let us love, not just in words,  
but in truth and action.  
Love one another, just as Christ commanded us.

And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death.  
May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life.  
And may the Holy Spirit abide in you  
...and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.



# Sung Amen

Ken Canedo/Bob Hurd

A - - men. A - - men. Now and for - ev - er, a - - men. A - - men. A - - men. *rit. poco a poco al fine* Now and for - ev - er, a - - men.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff includes the instruction *rit. poco a poco al fine* above the notes.

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# Postlude: The Strife is O'er

Wilbur Held

# Music List

From page 5:

## Hymn: Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. Good Shep - herd, we are not a - lone, for you pro -
2. An - oth - er shep - herd might turn back and flee at
3. A thief may well de - stroy and steal, but you, Good
4. You gath - er sheep from far and wide - from folds we



- tect and love your own. And we, re - spond - ing,  
dan - ger's first at - tack; but you laid down your  
Shep - herd, save and heal. You lead your sheep to  
know and from out - side. One flock, one Shep - herd,



know your voice; we hear you call - ing and re - jice.  
ver - y life - a lov - ing shep - herd's sac - ri - fice.  
pas - ture land, to life a - bun - dant, by your hand.  
there will be - a lov - ing, blest com - mu - ni - ty.

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# News for Northlea United

**Reading Next Week** - From *The Gathering* - Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

To find out what's happening at Northlea United, visit [northleaunited.ca](http://northleaunited.ca) and sign up for Newsbites our e-newsletter.



## **TODAY!! Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 11:45 am - Steve Doherty, Executive Director of Youth Without Shelter Lunch & Learn in the Community Room**

Steve Doherty is currently the Executive Director of Youth Without Shelter. Prior to joining YWS in 2017, Steve spent over 24 years working in the Children's Mental Health, Addictions, and Developmental Services Sectors. Steve was instrumental in establishing one of the first substance abuse treatment programs for youth which combined mental health and family therapy with a harm reduction model. He has been a sessional Professor in the

Child and Youth Work program of Sheridan College and a regular presenter at provincial and national conferences. He appears regularly on TV and radio discussing mental health, homelessness, and youth issues. A native of Bramalea, Steve received his B.A. from Saint Mary's University in Halifax.

- Tuesday, May 2, 2023:
  - 11:00 am – All Staff Meeting
  - 6:30 pm – UCW Potluck, General Meeting, Presentation
- Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 7:00 pm – Taizé in the Pines
- **Sunday, May 7, 2023 – 11:45 am – Annual General Meeting**
- Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Anniversary Sunday for NUC and BPUC
- Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 7:00 pm – All My Relations Webinar Part 2
- Sunday, May 21, 2023 – 10:30 am – Worship with LLWL Glen Greenwood
- Monday, May 22, 2023 – Victoria Day – Stat Holiday – office closed
- Thursday, May 25, 2023 – Last Choir practice on Thursdays for the summer. Choir will continue to sing on Sunday mornings.
- Sunday, May 28, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday
- Sunday, June 4, 2023 - Youth Without Shelter Dinner
- Saturday, June 17, 2023 – Healing Forest Dedication