



Northlea United Church
In the community. For the community.
125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7
www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

At Northlea United Church,
we encourage one another as we:
Love God ✧ Connect with others
Nurture the spirit ✧ Serve the world

Northlea rests on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

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. Linda Levin - Presiding

David Jafelice – Music Director

Lori Mak – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

Diane Carlton – Reader

Guest Minister: Rev. Linda Levin

Minister: Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

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 2023/2024 Year B Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.8M 08/23 230003 CH11191

Northlea United Church
Sunday, December 17, 2023

We welcome and thank Rev. Linda Levin for her leadership in today's worship service.

Carol Sing

Welcome

Lois Scott

Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship:

We come together today to celebrate changes.

A change in the weather, a change of seasons.

From fall to winter, from Advent to Christmas.

In the midst of the busyness of this Christmas season –

the planning, the shopping, the baking, and the visiting –

help us remember to stop and listen, look and see, and find joy

in the old story of new parents, a little baby, and a long journey.

Journey with us, Lord,

through this Advent season.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: Prepare, Prepare the Way of the Lord - verses 3-5

Stephen Pishner



Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord, oh, ___



Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord. The Lord our God is com - ing soon. Oh. ___

Copyright © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-724837

Lighting Advent Candle: Joy

Mary and Stan Peck

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle for Hope.

(the first candle is lit)

Our second candle was lit for Peace.

(the second candle is lit)

Today, we light a candle for Joy.

(the third candle is lit)

This is the Joy we search for:

**The Joy that comes when we go out of our way to help others,
The Joy that Jesus brought to the downtrodden and despised.**

The Joy of hearing chuckles that come from a young baby.

The Joy that is in the energy of a street-hockey game.

The Joy that comes in a fulfilling job and is found in a purposeful retirement.

**The Joy of compassionate friendship,
The Joy of a faith that is central to all we do and are,**

A Joy to release us,

A Joy to delight us,

A Joy to encourage us,

A Joy to challenge us when we feel despair in our hearts.

A Joy to sustain us throughout our lives. Amen.

Hymn: Hope is a Star

Voices United 7

1. **Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Refrain:

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

2. **Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth. (R)**
3. **Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born. (R)**

Words by Brian Wren; Copyright © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-724837

The Gift of Peace

(Take a moment to turn and greet one another in the peace of Christ—a smile, a bow, a wave)

Opening Prayer:

We pray for joy,

in a world that sometimes feels devoid of joy.

**God, grant us a vision of your future,
So we may live with joy.**

**Let it give us strength in difficult times
and be a cause for celebration in times of great happiness.**

Amen.

❖ **Listening** ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

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

Scripture: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 10-11
Luke 1: 46b-55

Diane Carlton

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

Reflection: "Joy to the World"

Rev. Linda Levin

❖ **Responding** ❖

Anthem: Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Prayers of the People

Rev. Linda Levin

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: On Jordan's Bank

Voices United 20

Sending Forth:

Go out this day, blessed by the love of our joyful God
who delights in you and your Advent journey.
Take the joy God has in you and let it radiate in your soul,
warming you and all those you meet.
Share your joy in this season as a holy gift to God.
Amen

Sung Amen: "Danish"

Voices United 967

Postlude

Reading Next Week

From *The Gathering*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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

Biography: Rev. Linda Levin

Linda is from a Jewish family in South Africa. Her first career was teaching Latin and Remedial English, in South Africa and then in London (England). She met and married a Canadian and came to Canada in 1976, when she began studies for ministry at Emmanuel College in Toronto. Ordained in 1979, she served for 2 years in Northern Ontario and 29 years at Runnymede United, Toronto. Linda officially retired from ministry in June of 2011 to start on her third career - to head Village of Love Canada, an organization she founded to support a group of Kenyan women in the slum community of Kibera. Big-hearted women who, despite their extreme poverty, take in and raise AIDS-orphaned children along with their own families. When not supply preaching and volunteering for Village of Love Canada, Linda likes to read or listen to audiobooks (ranging from science fiction to historical novels). She enjoys lawn bowling, swimming, walking and watching the birds and bugs in her garden. For more information on Village of Love, see www.villageoflovecanada.org.

Advent at Northlea

- **NEW - Thursday, December 21, 2023** – 7:30 pm - Northlea United is invited to join Leaside United for their Quiet Christmas service. This will be a reflective service with piano and violin and will offer space for grief, worry, loss and rest.
- **Sunday, December 24, 2023:**
 - 10:30 am – Advent IV – Love – Family Service with Rev. Jennifer Henry
 - 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve & Communion service with Rev. Jennifer Henry
- **NEW INFORMATION - Sunday, December 31, 2023** – 10:30 am – New Year’s Eve – pre-recorded online service. Northlea United has also been invited to join worship in person at Lawrence Park Community Church (2180 Bayview Ave, North York, ON M4N 3K7) at 10:30 am in a joint service with Eglinton St Georges.

New Year Events

- **Sunday, January 7, 2024** – 10:30 am – Epiphany Worship with Rev. Ambury Stuart
- **Sunday, January 14, 2024:**
 - 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Eun-Joo Park
 - 5:00 pm – Northlea United is thrilled to host "**Broadway & Beyond: An Exploration of Musical Theatre and English Art Song**" featuring our own Joshua Clemenger along with Ivan Jovanovic. They will take us on a musical journey through the soundscapes of English Art Song to the stages of Broadway.
- **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** – 11:30 am – Lunch & Learn: Fraud Awareness with Toronto Police – register by noon January 12, 2024 – office@northleaunited.ca or 416 425 5252.

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Wednesdays:**
 - Nothing But Treble** youth choir from 4:00 - 6:00 pm - First day in 2024 – January 10
 - For the Love of Singing** Community Choir at 7:30 pm will continue in 2024 – start date in February to be decided.
- **Thursdays:**
 - Art Circle** at 1:30 pm - everyone welcome. First day in 2024 – January 11
 - Northlea Church Choir** practice at 7:30 pm - First day in 2024 – January 4
- **Fridays:**
 - Bible Study** at 2:30 pm on **Zoom**. Last day in 2023 – December 15; First day in 2024 – January 12