



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



December 24, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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. Jenfer Henry - Presiding

David Jafelice – Music Director

Marianne Zin – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

Jesse Bigelow– Reader

Guest Minister: Rev. Jennifer Henry

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

Northlea United Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023

We welcome and thank Rev. Jennifer Henry for her leadership in today's worship service.

Carol Sing

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Come to this place

Where we can hear the voice of angels.

Come to this space

Where we need not be afraid.

Come to this place

Where something new is being born.

Come to worship God.

In spirit and in truth. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

Voices United 29

Lighting Advent Candle: Love

Cassandra Henderson & Carolina Bendaña

In winter's cold, with peoples at war, and an earth straining under our misuse we gather to kindle our hope. We tend the flame of spirit within each heart and ignite the fire of justice within our community. Help us to find our place in the circle of light and open our hearts to the One who is to come.

Light the first candle

We light this candle to claim your hope, even when all feels hopeless.

Warm us from within and ignite your fire of hope in our hearts.

Light the second candle

We light this candle to claim your peace, even when it seems impossible.

Warm us from within and illuminate the pathways of peace.

Light the third candle

We light this candle to claim your joy, even when it feels beyond our reach.

Warm us from within and spark your irrepressible joy.

Light the fourth candle

We light this candle to claim your love, even when we feel forgotten and alone.

Warm us from within and enflame our lives with your love.

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 circle 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)*
4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. *(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:

“Are we there yet?”; we ask, yearning to celebrate Your coming. Presents are wrapped, cookies are baked, trees are trimmed, or almost... We rush towards Your promise. Make us ready, loving God. Open arms wide. Unwrap every heart. Leave the doors ajar. Light all the pathways. Help us make room for Your good news. Christ Jesus, we pray you come. Amen

❖ Listening ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

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

Old Testament: Micah 5: 2-5a

Jesse Bigelow

Hymn: My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)

More Voices 120

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
The Gospel of Christ
Thanks be to God

Rev. Jennifer Henry

Reflection: Hark the Herald Angels

❖ Responding ❖

Anthem: Advent Lullaby

John Bell

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: People, Look East

Voices United 9

Sending Forth:

Go from here,
Listening for the angels,
Singing Mary's song,
Dreaming of a world turned upside down in love and justice.
Go from here,
Loving without fear
Making heaven on earth
Confident that we are never alone.
God is with us, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Sung Amen: Danish Amen

Voices United 967

Postlude

Rev. Jennifer Henry Biography



Jennifer Henry currently serves as Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada, leading staff dedicated to planning, growth, communications, research and Ministries in French. For almost three decades she was a social justice advocate on behalf of Canadian churches, including as Executive Director of KAIROS between 2012 and 2020. Jennifer holds a Master of Social Work and of Theological Studies from the University of Toronto, a Diploma of Denominational Studies from Vancouver School of Theology, and an Honorary Doctor of Christian Letters from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Jennifer was ordained in The United Church of Canada

in May of 2023.

Reading Next Week

From The Gathering

Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Christmas Day: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-7, 8-20

New Year's Eve: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

New Year's Day: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6; Matthew 25:31-46

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



Advent and Beyond at Northlea

- **TODAY** – 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
 - 7:00 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** will resume in February at 7:30 pm – date to be confirmed.
- **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**. First day in 2024 – January 12