



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



The Grace of Wonder

And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God
and were filled with awe, saying,
“We have seen extraordinary things today.” *Luke 5:26*

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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:

LLWL Cheryl Stenson – Presiding

David Jafelice – Music Director

Kaisha Lee – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

David Jafelice – 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” Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, – 2023/2024 Year B Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.8M 08/23 230003 CH11191

**Northlea United Church
Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**Welcome and thank you to Cheryl Stenson, Licenced Lay Worship Leader,
for her leadership in today's worship service.**

Prelude

Welcome

Lois Scott

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship:

Lois Scott

We gather today in the hope that each of us will hear something that can mean a new beginning.

A new hope, a new attitude, a new passion.

We listen with faithful expectation that words will feed us in the ways we need.

Need for comfort, need for strength, need for purpose.

In our togetherness we manifest conviction that this life is about relationship.

Relationship with each other, relationship with God.

Escaping cynicism to embrace wonder and awe,

We open our eyes and hearts.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Voices United 232

Lighting the Christ Candle

Rick Coombs

In a cold world

The light of Christ can warm hearts.

In a shadowed world,

The light of Christ can challenge us to the ways of peace.

In a world in despair,

The light of Christ can bring real hope.

May we be the light of Christ and bring hope, warmth and peace.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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:

Rick Coombs

Creator God, we contemplate the vastness of Your Kingdom.

We seek to grasp infinity and eternity, but the blinders of being human restrict our vision and we are left in awe simply to wonder.

**We are one people,
on one planet,
in one universe,
in the infinite Kingdom of You.**

Nurturing God, the blessings of this home, this Earth, are overwhelming.

Nature satisfies hunger both for food and for beauty.

Gratitude abounds and we thank You.

**Our home is here,
on this side of the spirit journey.
Nature is Your reflection
And our teacher.**

Gracious God, you grant us moments of sheer joy,

In times shared with loved ones and strangers, eyes and hearts locking

In the gift of connection.

**We look to revel in time held still,
To hold precious moments in suspension -
In this hour, in this life,
In this You.**

Amen.

❖ **Listening** ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy Spirit, stir us with your word,

as we listen for inspiration in your sacred story.

Amen

Scripture: Psalm 65 – Refrain 1

John 20: 19-20; 24-29

Voice United pg. 782 - (responsive) Cheryl Stenson

David Jafelice

In these readings we hear God's voice,

The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Reflection: The Grace of Wonder

Cheryl Stenson

❖ Responding ❖

Anthem: (Psalm 150) O Praise God in His Holiness

John Weldon (1676-1736)

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: O God Beyond All Praising

Voices United 256

Sending Forth:

May we go beyond words to find the message.

And the pennies drop from head to heart.

May we be open to new awareness

That permeates our life of faith.

May we breathe in the great news of eternal life and love

And graciously share that joy.

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.

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Postlude



Cheryl Stenson Biography

Cheryl has been a member of Glebe Road United Church since getting married there in 1996. She began at Glebe serving coffee and tea in fellowship hour, became secretary of the board, then Clerk of Session, and then Chair of the Board for many years. Her greatest joy at Glebe has been singing in the choir and the yearly musical events.

The Glebe sanctuary has been the venue of Cheryl's wedding, the baptism and confirmation of her daughter Melodie, and the funerals of her grandmother, mother, and, most recently, her husband, Bill. And her church family, the "Glebers", has seen her through it all.

Over the years, Cheryl stepped into the pulpit when Glebe's minister was away and found a passion in creating services and sermons. Eventually, she decided to take the Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) course with the United Church of Canada, receiving her license in November 2021.

Cheryl firmly believes that God led her to Glebe for many and varied reasons which have revealed themselves over time. She has found joy in worship and support in friendships and she is a devoted "Gleber" (a term she coined many years ago). Cheryl also helped coin Glebe's mission statement, "Inclusive. Inventive. In Faith." She aspires to reflect those same qualities in her work as an LLWL.

Reading Next Week

From *The Gathering*

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

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

13 FEB. NORTHLEA UNITED CHURCH
125 BRENTCLIFFE ROAD, TORONTO M4G 3T7

SHROVE TUESDAY

POTLUCK

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

6:00 PM - FEBRUARY 13
TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED

SPECIAL PANCAKE DESSERT!

SIGN UP TODAY
AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY OR
EMAIL/CALL THE OFFICE



TO SIGN UP TODAY:
416 425 5252
OR
OFFICE@NORTHLEAUNITED.CA
BE SURE TO INDICATE YOUR DISH DONATION

What's Happening at Northlea

TODAY: 5:00 pm - Youth Without Shelter Dinner.
Contact Rick Coombs if you want to cook up a storm with the group!

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 6:00 pm – Potluck Supper with special dessert – sign up after Sunday Service.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – 7:30 pm – For the Love of Singing Community Choir will begin again. Contact the office to register.

ONGOING EVENTS

Lenten Book Study: *Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis* edited by Alydia Smith – to sign up, contact the office at 416 425 5252 by February 1st.

Wednesdays:

- **Nothing But Treble** youth choir from 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- **For the Love of Singing** Community Choir at 7:30 pm
Beginning Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – sign up will begin soon.

Thursdays:

- **Art Circle** at 1:30 pm - everyone welcome.
- **Northlea Church Choir** practice at 7:30 pm

Fridays:

- **Bible Study** at 2:30 pm on Zoom.



For the Love of Singing

Is back starting Wednesday, February 28. 2024.

Come for the fun of it.

There is no final concert.

**You don't HAVE to come EVERY week
but it's worth it!**

You don't even have to be a great singer!

**You can just have lots of fun,
singing favourites &
learning a little along the way.**

Double the fun & bring a friend!

It's only \$75/person!

To register for the winter term, contact the office at:
Office@northleaunited.ca or 416 425 5252

