



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



January 7, 2024 Epiphany Sunday

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. Ambury Stuart - 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

Vera Bratten – 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 7, 2024**

We welcome Rev. Ambury Stuart as our guest minister today.

Prelude

Welcome

Donna Rutz

Call to Worship:

**Even in the deepest, darkest night,
Christ's light continues to shine.
Let us seek as those who journeyed from the East.
Let us venture into unknown territory, facing evil with confidence,
encountering the Holy with awe and gratitude.
Let us be guided by the eternal light of Christ. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: In the Darkness Shines the Splendor

Voices United 92

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Josh Clemenger

Like a star in the midst of the beautiful dark sky,
Like a bright window on the rainiest of days,
Like a beacon...
Like a grand "AHA!"
Christ's light shines.

Candle is lit

Now.

Always! Amen.

-written by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott (Gathering 2017-2018)

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:

Donna Rutz

You call us out of night's darkness, to live in the radiance of your love. You have sent Jesus, Son of Righteousness to illuminate the way! Guide us to reflect your light in the world. Pull us from the shadows, the distractions and worldly promises that lead us to our own peril. Fill us once again with the radiant promise of Epiphany. Amen

Hymn: The First Nowell

Voices United 91

❖ **Listening** ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

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

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Vera Bratten

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

Reflection: From Darkness into Light

Rev. Ambury Stuart

❖ **Responding** ❖

Anthem: When Heaven's Bright with Mystery

*(VU93) English Traditional Melody
Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1919
Words by Rob Johns 1985*

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: What Child is This

Voices United 74

Sending Forth:

May God's love and grace shine upon you.
May the Light of Jesus shine from within you.
May the joy of the Spirit shine all around you.
And may you and those you love, wherever they might be,
remember to share your gifts for all the world to see.

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

Our Guest Minister today is Rev. Ambury Stuart

Rev. Ambury Stuart was one of the Presbytery representatives during the amalgamation discussions between Northlea and Bedford Park United, and has remained in touch with the new, combined congregation as an occasional supply worship leader ever since. He was ordained in 2004 after a 30-year career in environmental science and was the worship leader at Glebe Road United in the Yonge-Eglinton area for 10 years before his retirement from active ministry in 2013.

Ambury sees himself as both a scientist and a minister, and his sermons reflect this unusual combination of life-experience. In retirement, he continues to appreciate the opportunity to share his faith and his ideas with congregations such as Northlea. He and his spouse Victoria currently attend Fairlawn Avenue United where he is a Voluntary Associate Minister.

Reading Next Week

From The Gathering

I Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

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

What's Happening at Northlea in 2024?

New Year Events

- **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** 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

Fridays:

- **Bible Study** at 2:30 pm on Zoom. First day in 2024 – January 12