



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent
P.I.E. Day Celebration

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. Jennifer Henry – 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

Jesse Bigelow - 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

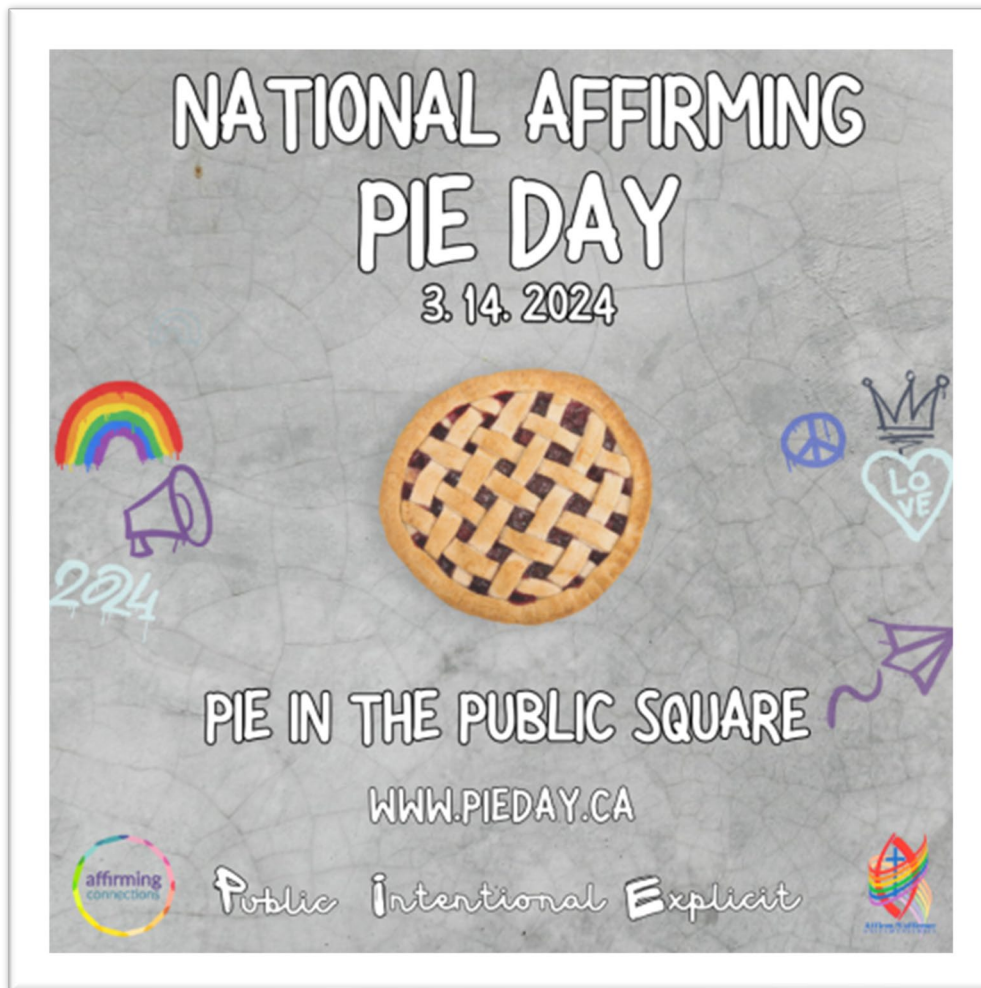
Congregational & Community Outreach Coordinator: Jo Dullard jo@northleaunited.ca

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



March 14 is **PIE Day**. In church circles it has nothing to do with math. PIE is short for “public, intentional, and explicit.” These are the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to be affirming, welcoming, and inclusive.

PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections. Every year, [Affirm United](#) invites us to celebrate the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond. The day challenges us to widen our welcome, to embody love, and to celebrate gender and sexual diversity.

It’s critical that we do. Gender identity and sexual orientation are used to justify human rights violations around the world. Same-sex sexual activity is a crime in 71 countries; in 11 of these the death penalty can be imposed. Here in Canada, 1 million people identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. In 2019, police reported 263 hate crimes targeting people for their sexual orientation. This was a 41 percent increase over the previous year and the highest number since 2009.*

Your gifts through [Mission and Service](#) sustain life-transforming advocacy and education. They support refugees fleeing for their lives because they identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. They support safe shelters, community awareness education, human rights programs, and safe spaces.

Thank you for giving through [Mission and Service](#). God’s compassionate love knows no boundaries. Your generosity shows ours doesn’t either.

*Statistics Canada, [“Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2019”](#) (March 29, 2021).

**Northlea United Church
Sunday, March 10, 2024**

We welcome Rev. Jennifer Henry as our guest minister today.

Choral Prelude: Love's Rage and Grief

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm
Tune: BANGOR by William Tans'us

1. Love's rage and grief when parents harm and shun the child they raised,
an exile from their hearts and home, abandoned and erased.
2. Love's rage and grief when strangers harm and bruise the child Love made;
they batter with their fists and words, advancing hate's crusade.
3. Love's rage and grief when leaders harm and cast Love's own away;
while claiming truth and righteousness, they blaspheme when they pray.
4. Love's fierce, relentless work to seek the outcast, hurt, afraid,
to be a refuge and a home, to hold the child betrayed.

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Welcome

Donna Rutz

Call to Worship:

We gather as part of God's great diversity.

Made in Their image.

We sing the Creator's love song of life.

Giving voice to the sacred, deep in our hearts.

We risk hope as the Jesus movement.

Called to bold discipleship in our time.

We embrace the Spirit who moves in and through.

Pressing us to daring conspiracies of love and justice.

Holy Three, Holy One, we come together in worship.

Gathering Hymn: Let This Be the Time

Lori True, see page 8

Lighting the Rainbow Candle

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:*

You who have created all that is
In whose love we live and move and have our being;
You who are Christ of our lives and Spirit of our souls.
Restless, dancing Three-in-One.

Move through us like a rushing wind, blowing away our dustiness.
Move through our church like quickfire, burning away that which keeps us from growing.
Move through our world like a mighty river, bringing justice and equity to all peoples.
Bless us with the love that transforms everything in Jesus' name.
Amen

(*Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Richard Bott)

Hymn: Open Our Hearts

Jim Strathdee

O - pen our hearts, _____ o - pen our minds. _____ O - pen our
lives to you O lov - ing God. _____ O - pen our hearts. _____

Last time

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❖ **Listening** ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

Jesse Bigelow

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

Scripture

Ephesians 2:4-10

Jesse Bigelow

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

Anthem: God So Loved the World (John 3:16)

Robert Farrell

John 3:16-17

Rev. Jennifer Henry

The Gospel of Christ
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Flaunt It

❖ Responding ❖

Anthem: Draw the Circle Wide

Words by Gordon Light, Music by Mark A. Miller

Prayers of the People:

We are here
Voices strong, bodies proud, hearts bold.
Living testimony to your great diversity
Sign and sacrament of your loving justice
For such a time as this.

We rise in love seeking justice.

We acknowledge
The ways in which we have failed
Failed to take in the fulness of your love
To believe the breadth of your grace
To see the rainbow colours of Your hope.

We breathe in humility seeking hope.

We repent
From the traditions that constrain Your promise
The use of texts to demean and abuse
Mission that distorted Your radical welcome

We turn from hate seeking change.

We celebrate
The unfolding mystery of Your presence
Communities learning and transforming
Movements that of rites and rights that
change the world

We open in faith seeking transformation.

We pray in the name of the Three in One
God ever in relationship,
Risking daring creation, intimate solidarity, prophetic love.

Amen.

(Litany by: Susie Henderson and Jennifer Henry)

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: My Love Colours Outside the Lines


More Voices 138

Sending Forth:

Creator of the great diversity
May we go from this place
To embody Your extravagant grace
To proclaim Your radical justice
And to be a living sacrament of Your immeasurable and limitless love
Amen.

Sung Amen: Belmont Amen

Christopher Walker



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The melody consists of a series of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The notes are connected by a long slur. The lyrics 'A - - - men, a - - - - - men.' are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating the duration of each note.

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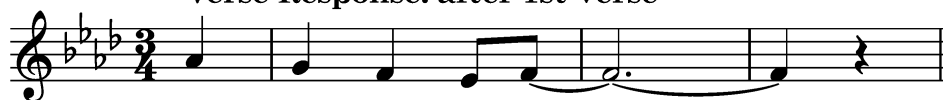
Music List

From page 4:

Gathering Hymn: Let This Be the Time

Lori True

Verse Response: after 1st verse

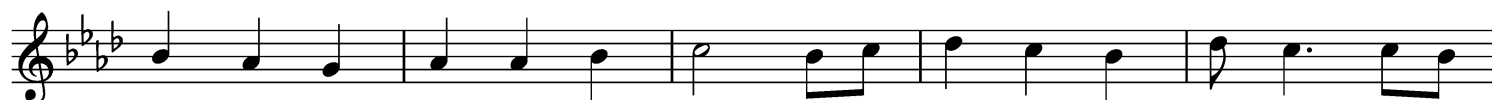


Let this be the time. _____

Refrain



Come and tear down the old ___ ways and build up the new, ___ be the God of our



prom - ise; all hope rests in you. With the fire of your Spir - it, blaze a



king - dom of truth. ___ Pre - pare us for ac - tion, let noth - ing dis -



-tract us from you! _____ Let this be the time. _____

1. *When the song of your people rings out from each steeple, let this be the time.
When our praise and devotion set lives into motion, let this be the time.
When the heart of our labour promotes love of neighbour, let this be the time.
When the care for each nation brings peace to creation, let this be the time. Refrain*
2. *When we see in each face those we need to embrace, **let this be the time.**
When we turn and forgive those the world won't let live, **let this be the time.**
When our care for creation becomes our vocation, **let this be the time.**
When our deeds and good actions become our true passion, **let this be the time. Refrain***
3. *When the voice of the Spirit transforms all who hear it, **let this be the time.**
When we turn from obsession and needless possessions, **let this be the time.**
When we give recognition to the one, true physician, the healer who bears all our pain,
when we stop and remember that you are our God. **Let this be the time. Refrain 2x***

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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

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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

Lent and Easter at Northlea

Tuesdays in Lent – Soup Lunch at noon – March 12, 19 in the Community Room – don't miss it!

Sunday, March 17, 2024 – Fifth in Lent - 10:30 am – Worship with Karen Chandler. Last day to hand in your Loonies for Lent and send a kid to camp this summer!

Sunday, March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday:

- 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Alydia Smith – Last day for Flower Tribute donations – all donations received by this Sunday will be in the bulletin next Sunday.
- 5:00 pm – Youth Without Shelter dinner

Friday, March 29, 2024 – 10:30 am – Worship at Leaside Presbyterian - 670 Eglinton Ave E. – Northlea Choir and Leaside Choir will collaborate for this service. The office will be closed this Friday and Monday, April 1, 2024.

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Easter:

- 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom
- 11:30 am – Volunteers to take flowers to the Homebound. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office by Thursday, March 28th at noon.

Ongoing:

- Sundays – 10:30 am Worship
- Wednesdays – 4:00 pm – Nothing But Treble Youth Choir; 7:30 pm – For The Love Of Singing Community Choir
- Thursdays – 1:30 pm Art Circle; 7:30 pm Northlea Choir Practice
- Fridays – 2:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom



Flower Tributes for Easter

You may have received a special Easter Flower Tribute donation envelope in the mail or you can find one in the Narthex. For a suggested donation of only \$10/name, you can remember your loved ones with flowers in the sanctuary to help decorate for Easter. All names received by Sunday, March 24, 2024 will be in the bulletin for Easter Sunday. Please drop your envelope into the collection plate or through the office door into our locked mailbox.

After the service on Easter Sunday, flowers will be taken to the Homebound. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver these flowers, please send an email or call the office.

HOT and HEARTY...and OH, SO GOOD!

SOUP FOR LUNCH

Join us every
Tuesday in Lent
at 12 p.m.
starting
February 20



A different flavour every week!