



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



December 15, 2024

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. Liz Mackenzie - Presiding

David Jafelice – Music Director

Kaisha Lee – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

Natalie Wong & Adrian Pereira on Violins

Diana Bennett – Reader

Mary & Stan Peck - – Candle lighting Liturgists

Minister: Rev. Liz Mackenzie

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

Sharing what we have:

We give as an expression of gratitude for all that God has done and is doing in and through us.

Ways to give financially:

1. Cash or cheque made payable to Northlea United Church – this can be put into the office mailbox at the east doors or into an envelope available in the foyer and dropped in the collection plate (*be sure to include your contact information in order to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year*);
2. Online via Canada Helps (just scan this QR code to be brought to the secure online donation form);
3. Through automatic monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance – Forms are available from the church office: office@northleaunited.ca



We are thankful for all your gifts as they sustain the life and work of this church.

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 2024/2025 Year C Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.8 M 09/24 240003 CH11205

Northlea United Church
Sunday, December 15, 2024

Carol Sing

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Response:

**We believe that our relationships with the Creator,
the land, the people, the plants and the animals are sacred.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The light of the Christ Child gathers us in joy.
The light of the Christ Child gathers us together.

Introit: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Music: Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749. Translation: John Chandler, 1806-1876

Call to Worship:

(Call To Worship by L.Doyle, B.Root, D.Woods in Gathering – A/C/E, 2013-14, 29. Used with permission.)

Advent is a season of waiting.

But we do not wait alone.

God is with us.

We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.

God is birthing joy into this waiting world.

Let us worship God with voices raised in joyous praise!

Candle Lighting Hymn: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star



3. Joy shines as the sol - i - tar - y star. Faith is the in - ner light. You and I to - geth - er



mir - ror the Light of Lights, and il - lu - mine the path - way home.

Words copyright © Catherine Faith McLean. Music copyright © Janet Bowman Tissandier. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-724837

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle and Prayer

Mary & Stan Peck

(Gathering – A/C/E, 2010-11, 52, alt. Used with permission.)

Two weeks ago we lit our candle of Hope. We light it again as we continue to wait in Hope.

(The first purple candle is lit.)

Last week we lit the candle of Peace.

Our hearts filled with longing, we light it again.

(The second purple candle is lit.)

Our time of eager anticipation seems unending.

Yet we continue waiting for the one who will move us beyond our sorrow:
sorrow stifling our lives, our families, our communities, our world.

(The pink candle is lit.)

We open our hearts and minds to divine Joy as we pray:

**Compassionate God, whose will it is that we share in abundance,
we light this third candle trusting your Ray of Joy will come to guide us into wholeness,
even in our most broken hours...**

(A time of silent prayer)

We pray in the name of the Christ Child who is born as Joy to the world.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Voices United 2

The Gift of Peace

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

A Sanctuary Moment

❖ Listening ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

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

Amen

Diana Bennett

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

This is the Gospel – God’s Good News!

Thanks be to God!

Anthem: Rejoice, Rejoice! *(Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn)*

Marty Haugen

Reflection: Not So Meek or Mild!

❖ Responding ❖

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

More Voices 120

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, with joy we receive the blessings you give;
with joy we give, in hope that we will be a blessing to your world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

Voices United 59

Sending Forth:

Gift of power, Gift of grace, Gift of God;
Go with us as we bear your Gift of Joy to the world.

Blessing

Amen:

Richard Proulx

Solo first, then ALL:



A - men, a - - - men, a - men, a - - - men.

Copyright © 1991 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-724837

Postlude

Carols By Candlelight TONIGHT

Please remember to bring your plated sweets tonight
for the reception following the service.

Reading Next Week

From *The Gathering*

Micha 5:2-5; Luke 1:47-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

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

Advent is a time of waiting & anticipation....

The Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be slowly decorated over the four Sundays of Advent:



TODAY, December 15, when you attend worship, you are invited to bring ornaments for the tree that embody **JOY** in some way.



Sunday Dec. 22, you are invited to bring ornaments that embody **LOVE** in some way.

We will decorate the tree during the Sanctuary Moment time in worship.

Decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 5, 2025, following worship and you can take your decorations home that day or anytime that week. While we will care for your decorations like they're our own, please do not bring decorations that are of irreplaceable value to you as we cannot guarantee their safety.

For more information, please email Liz at liz@northleaunited.ca

Advent at Northlea

TODAY - Sunday, December 15, 2024 – Advent III – Joy - 7:30 pm – Carols By Candlelight at Northlea United

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 – 6:30 pm - Old Fashioned Street Caroling with Micheal Spiroff & the UCWN – meet at the church at 6:30 pm; until approx. 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – 6:00 pm – Blue Christmas at Manor Road UC with Northlea participation.

Sunday, December 22, 2024 – Advent IV – Love – 10:30 am – Advent Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm – Family worship with Communion

Sunday, December 29, 2024 – online pre-recorded worship service

The church will be closed from 3 pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 to 11:30 am on Thursday, January 2, 2025. The first in-person worship service in 2025 will be held at 10:30 am on Sunday, January 5, 2025

Mondays:

- Bible Study at 4:30 pm – the group has begun the holiday break and will begin meeting again on January 13, 2025

Thursdays:

- 1:30 pm – Art Circle – the group has begun the holiday break and will begin meeting again on January 9, 2025
- 7:30 pm – Northlea Choir Practice – The last 2024 Thursday rehearsal will be December 19. The first 2025 Thursday rehearsal will be January 2.

Hey! Did you hear? There's a postal strike.

But don't let that stop you from playing Santa and sending in your Christmas donation. Here are the ways you can send in your givings:

1. Come to worship and drop it in the collection plate.
2. Put it in an envelope and put it in the mailbox outside the office door (east entrance, central stairs). **Don't worry! It is checked daily.**
3. Visit the website at **northleaunited.ca** and click the **Donate** button at the top. This will take you to the Canada Helps donation form. Totally secure!
4. Last but not least, scan the **QR code** shown here and you can open the Canada

Helps donation form directly.

Thank you for your generosity!

