



Northlea United Church
In the community. For the community.
125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7
www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



December 22, 2024
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. 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

Jody Kinsey – Reader

Jesse Bigelow & Sadie Alizade - 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 22, 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 love.
The light of the Christ Child gathers us together.

Introit: Remember, Christians All (*Advent Carol*)

Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1685)

Call to Worship:

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 love into this waiting world.

Let us worship God with hearts open to love!

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

Candle Lighting Hymn: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star



4. Love 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.

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Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle and Prayer

Jesse Bigelow & Sadie Alizade

Three 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.)

Two weeks ago we lit the candle of Peace. Our hearts filled with longing, we light it again.

(The second purple candle is lit.)

Last week we lit the candle of Joy. Eager for a world that shares in abundance, we light it again.

(The pink candle is lit.)

Our time of eager anticipation has continued for so long. We grow weary in our waiting...

waiting for the one who will redeem us from our self-absorption:

self-absorption that breaks our relationships with our families, our communities,
our world, our Creator.

(The last purple candle is lit.)

Yet we continue our journey, opening our hearts and minds to divine Love as we pray:

Loving God, who created us to live in loving relationship with all your creation and all who share it with us, we light this fourth candle trusting that your Ray of Love 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 God's wondrous gift of Love.

Amen.

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

Opening Hymn: Rejoice! Rejoice! (Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn)

Marty Haugen
see page 6

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 sacred story.

Amen

Jody Kinsey

Scripture: Isaiah 49:13-16a

Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

This is the Gospel – God’s Good News!

Thanks be to God!

Anthem: Advent Lullaby

John L. Bell

Reflection: Birthing the Christ Child

❖ Responding ❖

Hymn: People Look East

Voices United 9

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Prayer:

Healing God, may these gifts of our hearts be used to further your hope, peace, joy, and love in this hurting and broken world. Use us as Christ’s body to bring your never-failing love into all the places where it is needed. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.

For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory for ever. Amen.

A Translation: United Church of Christ (U.S.A.) 1995 copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press

Closing Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Voices United 35

Sending Forth

Amen:

Richard Proulx

Solo first, then ALL:



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

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Postlude

Music List

From page 4:

Opening Hymn: Rejoice! Rejoice! (Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn)

Marty Haugen



1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, ___
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u - el comes a sing - ing, ___
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the world is des - pair - ing, ___
4. Re - joice! Re - joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and cheer - less, ___



sing out your joy, for soon he is born, be - hold! the child of our long - ing.
his hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
as morn - ing light, so qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing;
the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er;
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lo - ving kind - ness,
then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der,
love be our song, and love our prayer, and love our end - less sto - ry,



he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er. ___
the thun - der of his an - thems roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness. ___
the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der. ___
may God fill ev - 'ry day we share, and bring us at last in - to glo - ry. ___

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Advent and Beyond at Northlea

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

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

The church office will be closed from 3:00 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.

New Year at Northlea...

Mondays:

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

Thursdays:

- 1:30 pm – Art Circle – the group will begin meeting again on January 9, 2025
- 7:30 pm – Northlea Choir Practice

Sunday, January 5, 2025 – Epiphany Sunday – 10:30 am - Worship

Sunday, January 12, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord - 10:30 am – Worship

Sunday, January 19, 2025:

- 10:30 am – Worship
- 11:30 am – Congregational Lunch and Meeting – all are welcome

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 – all day – First Aid Training – if you are interested in participating in either the 9 hour course or the 7 hour course – register with the office by Wednesday, January 15, 2025. The church will cover costs for Lay Leaders.

Sunday, January 26, 2025:

- 10:30 am – Worship
- 5:00 pm – Youth Without Shelter Dinner

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – 12:00 noon – Lunch & Learn – Estate Planning – everyone is welcome to register – please do so by Friday, January 24, 2025

Even though the strike is ending...

It may be quite a while before everything is running smoothly and quickly. To ensure your donation is in by the end of 2024 to count for your 2024 tax receipt, try one of the following ways to send in your givings:



1. Come to worship and drop an envelope 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!

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

December 29: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

January 5 – Epiphany Sunday: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-9, 10-18

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