




Northlea United Church

**In the community. For the community.**

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

[www.northleaunited.ca](http://www.northleaunited.ca) ✧ 416-425-5252



For unto us a child is born.

# **December 24, 2024**

## **Communion**

### **Christmas Eve**

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](mailto: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](http://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

Senan Whelan – Guest Organist

Kaisha Lee – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

Diana Bennett – Reader

**Minister:** Rev. Liz Mackenzie

**Music Director:** David Jafelice [david@northleaunited.ca](mailto:david@northleaunited.ca)

**Office Administrator:** Tricia Reid [office@northleaunited.ca](mailto:office@northleaunited.ca)

**Facility Manager:** Robert Pringle [building@northleaunited.ca](mailto:building@northleaunited.ca)

**Congregational & Community Outreach Coordinator:** Jo Dullard [jo@northleaunited.ca](mailto: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 mailed in or put 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**Choral Prelude:** Angels' Carol

John Rutter

**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 the wonder of new life.

**The light of the Christ Child gathers us together.**

**Introit:** Love Came Down at Christmas

Music: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange  
Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

**Call to Worship:**

Christ is born! The Light of God's presence has entered into creation! Give God glory!

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! The Love of God touches us in human flesh! Give God glory!

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! The Hope of God is born among us! Give God glory!

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**And on earth peace and good will among all people!**

**Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful**

**Voices United 60**

**Lighting of the Christmas Candle and Prayer**

Maram Family

Four Sundays ago, we began our Advent journey by lighting our candle of Hope.  
We light it once more as we continue to wait in Hope.

*(The first purple candle is lit.)*

Three Sundays ago, we lit the candle of Peace.  
Our hearts filled with longing; we light it once more.

*(The second purple candle is lit.)*

Two Sundays ago, we added the light of the candle of Joy. Eager for a world that shares in abundance; we light it again.

*(The pink candle is lit.)*

Last Sunday, we lit the candle of Love, and we light it again, sharing a vision of our world thriving in right relationship.

*(The last purple candle is lit.)*

The time is now. We need wait no longer.

The One who saves us from our self-centredness, sorrow, conflict, and brokenness is born among us. The Way is aglow with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

As we light our Christmas candle, we open our hearts and minds to God's presence and God's glorious gift – Jesus Emmanuel who is God-with-us.

*(The white candle is lit.)*

### **Hope Shines as the Solitary Star** *(from More Voices)*



5. Christ 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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And we pray:

**God of awesome mystery, through the birth of Jesus, you call us into unity with you.  
Tonight, may your Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love become the centre of our hearts,  
the centre of our thoughts, and the centre of our lives,  
guiding us into wholeness and a world filled with light...**

*(A time of silent prayer...)*

We pray in the name of the Christ Child who is God's wondrous gift of Light and Love.  
**Amen.**

### **The Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts to the Christ Child**

**Offering Hymn: What Child is This** *(from Voices United 74), vs 3.*

**So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Loving God, these are our gifts for your Son, Jesus.  
May they be used to birth your love in the world  
and bring hope, peace, and joy to all people. Amen.**

**The Gift of Peace**

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

**❖ We Hear God’s Love Story Anew ❖**

**Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**Voices United 64**

**First Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7** *(New Revised Standard Updated Version)*

**Diana Bennett**

**Reflection: “Wait. Watch. Wonder. Waken.” by the Very Reverend Richard Bott**  
*(from Gathering Drama File – A/C/E 2014-2015, adapted. Used with permission.)*

**Second Lesson: Luke 2: 8-14** *(New Revised Standard Updated Version)*

**Diana Bennett**

**Reflection: “Keeping Watch In The Night.” by Joyce Rupp**  
*(in Out of the Ordinary, Ave Maria Press: 2000, 53.)*

**Third Lesson: Luke 2: 15-19** *(New Revised Standard Updated Version)*

**Diana Bennett**

**Reflection: “For Unto Us”**  
*(in Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services, United Church Publishing House: 2000, 120-121.)*

**❖ The Celebration of Holy Communion ❖**

**Anthem: O Holy Night**

**Adolphe Adam**

**Invitation**

**Our Prayer and Story of Thanksgiving**

**Come and gather around the manger.**

**We yearn for the presence of the Holy in our lives.**

**Here is Emmanuel, God–with-us.**

**Come and join with the angels and the shepherds to celebrate Jesus’ birth;**

**Let us sing with all creation:**

**Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain** *(from Voices United 43)*

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Vs. 1: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

Jesus came into this world not seated upon a  
throne or possessing wealth.

He came to be the presence of the Divine with the  
poor, the forgotten, the marginalized,  
because the heart of God ached for justice.

Jesus knew what it was like to be pushed away,  
kept outside of the community, thrown out from places of worship, unwelcome in the  
corridors of power.

And so he worked, he proclaimed, he healed, he taught;  
he confronted the powers and principalities  
that he avails of injustice. He said:

**“Love your neighbour as yourself.”**

**“Treat others as you wish to be treated.”**

He said all the right things, and all the wrong things.

He sought to change all the wrong things.

He made places for those who had no place,

and gave life to those who had been treated as dead.

He used his power to celebrate the presence of God with us.

He used his power to make a place for everyone.

In God's presence, Jesus shared a meal,

a celebration in which everyone had a place and a purpose.

He said, “This is my body”:

**shared for our living.**

“This is my blood”:

**poured out for our living.**

For God reached into the darkness,

**and brought forth light.**

God reached into humanity,

**and brought forth Jesus.**

God reached into death,

**and brought forth resurrection.**

So with the stars and the powers of creation and light we remember:

**Jesus the child;  
Jesus, the faithful;  
Jesus, the saviour.**

Here is our nurture, our redemption, our life, our celebration:

As the Spirit moves within and among us, we discover the holy in the ordinary,  
**for Jesus Emmanuel is God-with-us.**

Come and share; come and celebrate this gift of God-with-us.

We gather all our prayers and offer them to God,  
thankful that God watches over us like a mother,  
and to whom Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*(The bread is broken.)*

The Bread of Blessing.

*(The cup is filled.)*

The Cup of New Life.

*(Congregation comes forward to receive Communion elements.)*

**Prayer After Communion (said all together)**

**With open hands we have received your love, O God.**

**With open hearts may we now share it with others.**

**May your joy and love, shared through the birth of a baby in Bethlehem,  
continue to fill our homes and our world with hope and peace. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

**Voices United 48**

*(Candles are lit from the Christ candle and light is spread across the church)*



**Sending Forth and Blessing**

**A Lullaby for the Christ Child: Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Voices United 67**

**Postlude**

Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!

## Coming Soon at Northlea

**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 church will be closed from Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Tuesday, January 1, 2025.

### **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, 2024** – Epiphany Sunday – 10:30 am – Worship

**Sunday, January 12, 2025** – 10:30 am – Baptism of the Lord – worship

### **Sunday, January 19, 2025:**

- 10:30 am – Worship
- 11:30 am – Congregational Lunch and Meeting – all are welcome. More information to follow in the New Year.

**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

**Holiday Readings - From *The Gathering***

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