



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



*Photo credit: saeed-karimi-JrrWC7Qcmhs-unsplash*

**February 23, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Black History Month**

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

Kaisha Lee – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

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

Diana Bennett - Reader

**Minister:** Rev. Liz Mackenzie – [Liz@northleaunited.ca](mailto:Liz@northleaunited.ca)

**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  
Sunday, February 23, 2025**

**Welcome**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

God is love and where God is, there is love.

It is in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that we discover there is no fear in love;  
perfect love casts out fear.

**We celebrate God's wonderful love that is light and life for all God's creation.**

*(Candle is lit.)*

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

**Response:**

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

**Introit:** Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Call to Worship:**

Come and hear the good news: we are God's beloved.  
With us God is well pleased. Even if we are not perfect!

**You. Me. We are God's beloved!**

God has promised to be with all of creation, no matter what.

**In confidence and hope, let us worship God.**

The Rev. Thérèse Samuel from "Honouring Our Identities:  
Service for Black History Month, February 21, 2021," on [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

# Opening Hymn: Gather Your People

Bob Hurd

With a gospel swing ♩ = c. 112

## Refrain

Gath - er your peo - ple, O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Gath - er your  
 peo - ple O Lord. One \_\_\_\_\_ bread, one \_\_\_\_\_ bod - y, one \_\_\_\_\_ spir - it of  
 love. \_\_\_\_\_ Gath - er your peo - ple, O Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

1-3. to Verses Final Fine

## Verses

1. Draw us forth to the ta - ble of life: broth - ers and sis - ters,
2. We are parts of the bod - y of Christ, need - ing each oth - er,
3. No more harm on the moun - tain of God: swords in - to plow - shares.

D.S. al Fine

1. each of us called to walk in your light. \_\_\_\_\_
2. each of the gifts the Spir - it pro - vides. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Free us, O Lord, from hard - ness of heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Based on I Cor. 12; Is. 2:3-4; 11:9. Text and music Copyright © 1991, 1992, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.  
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# 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:

Loving God, come to us, we pray.

Come to:

The joyful ...

The excited ...

The grateful ...

The scared ...

The sad ...

The weary ...  
The grieving ...  
The distraught ...  
The broken ...

**Come to us all we pray...**

*(A time of silent prayer)*

We gather all our prayers in the name of Jesus who gathered a diversity of peoples in his love and compassionate care.

**Amen.**

### **A Sanctuary Moment**

**A New Creed** (United Church of Canada, 1968, revised 1980 and 1995)

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world,  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

❖ Listening ❖

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Diana Bennett

God of Epiphany,  
We long to hear your holy Word in fresh ways.  
Open our ears to the call of your voice.  
Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.  
Fill us with anticipation for your future. Amen.

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 37**

**(Voices United 763, with sung refrain)**

**Gospel: Luke 6:27-38**

This is the Gospel – God’s Good News!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem: Steal Away**

Traditional Spiritual. Arr. by Patrick Dupré Quigley

**Reflection: Jesus Talks Forgiveness – Is Anyone Listening?**

❖ Responding ❖

**Hymn: Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands**

**More Voices 173**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**When We Are Living**

**Voices United 581**



2. Through all our liv - ing,\_\_\_ we our fruits must give. \_\_\_ Good works of  
4. A - cross this wide world,\_\_\_ we shall al - ways find \_\_\_ those who are



ser - vice \_\_\_ are for of - fer - ing. \_\_\_ When we are giv - ing, \_\_\_ or when re -  
cry - ing \_\_\_ with no peace of mind, \_\_\_ but when we help them, \_\_\_ or when we



- ceiv - ing, \_\_\_ we be - long to God, \_\_\_ we be - long to God.  
feed them, \_\_\_

Spanish Melody. Text: Vs. 2, 4 by Roberto Escamilla 1983. Translation by Carlton R. Young 1989.  
Translation © copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-724837

### **Offering Prayer (in unison)**

**Life-giving God, may these gifts help bring justice into your hurting world.**

**Through the power of your Spirit, multiply our efforts that we might be the face of Christ to each other and to all whom you would have us minister. 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: Let There Be Light**

**Voices United 679**

#### **Sending Forth:**

**Go from here with the light of unity.  
Go from here with the light of hope.  
Go from here to where God waits,  
And our love is needed.**

**We go as one, to the world God loves.**

*(Robin Wardlaw in Gathering – A/C/E 2010-11, 47. Used with permission.)*

## Blessing

### Amen: (from VU 974)



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## Postlude

### Next Week's Readings

From *The Gathering*

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, 37-43

To find out what's happening at Northlea United, visit [northleaunited.ca](http://northleaunited.ca).



## Coming up at Northlea...

### **Muffin Month is almost over!**

Leaside Presbyterian is continuing with their Community Time Program, in which approximately 27-30 individuals in need participate. These individuals receive a Grocery Gift card and TTC fare card (two fares). That means it costs a little under **\$30/person** to run the program. each year Northlea United helps by raising funds to cover at least one month's costs – that's \$900. **We are making progress, but we are not at our goal ... yet! And time is running out. Can you help?**

You can make your cheque or envelope out to Northlea United and indicate Muffin Month on the memo line.

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025** – 12:00 noon -Lunch and Learn – Silver Lining Senior Advisors present Planning for the Future: Exploring Your Retirement Living Options.

**Thursday, February 27, 2025:** Election Day – Please note that the staff will be working from home that day as there is an election poll onsite.

**Sunday, March 2, 2025** - 10:30 am – Worship and Communion

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025** – Pancakes and Ashes – 6:00 pm – Potluck with crepes for dessert – sign up on the flip cart in the Narthex or with the office. Followed by a service of ashes in the Sanctuary.

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 – First of Lent** - 10:30 am – Worship; Daylight Savings begins

**March 10 – 17, 2025 inclusive** -Rev. Liz will be on Study Leave

### **Friday, March 14, 2025:**

- 2:00 pm – World Day of Prayer Celebration at St Cuthbert's Anglican - 1399 Bayview Ave – all are welcome
- National Affirming/P.I.E. Day – Let's be Public, Intentional and Explicit in celebrating the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond across Canada.

**Sunday, March 16, 2025** – 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Kerri Hagerman

### **Sunday, March 23, 2025:**

- 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Liz
- 5:00 pm – Love Jazz with Paul Callander and his band

## Ongoing Activities:

### **Mondays:**

- 4:30 pm - Bible Study on Zoom – everyone is welcome

**Starting Monday, February 24 to March 3**, we will journey through the Book of Ruth. Each week, Rev. Liz will send out an overview of the material and discussion questions for our sessions. We gather by Zoom from 4:30-6:00 pm. To receive the link and the materials, please contact Liz at [liz@northleaunited.ca](mailto:liz@northleaunited.ca).

### **Wednesdays:**

- 7:30 pm - For the Love of Singing Community Choir

### **Thursdays:**

- 1:30 pm – Art Circle – everyone is welcome – there will be no Art Circle on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 7:30 pm – Northlea Choir Practice

# Lunch & Learn with Silver Lining Senior Advisors

## Planning for the Future: Exploring Your Retirement Living Options

Tuesday, February 25, 2025  
12 Noon - Lunch Provided  
Northlea United Church, 125 Brentcliffe Rd.

As we age, planning ahead is essential. Join us as we welcome Peg Bocci from Silver Lining Senior Advisors for an informative session where she will discuss the variety of possibilities available for retirement living.

### Expert insights into:

- Making your current home safer for aging in place
- Exploring retirement living options
- Elder care planning

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the best options for your future.

**To register email:**  
Jo@northleaunited.ca

**Or call:**  
416-425-5252

**Deadline to register:**  
Friday Feb. 21, 2025



**Mar  
4TH**

**NORTHLEA UNITED FAMILY**

# **PANCAKE POTLUCK**

**6:00 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM**

*Service of ashes to follow in the sanctuary*



**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

**SIGN UP ON THE CHART IN THE FOYER  
OR CALL THE OFFICE**

**416 425 5252 OR OFFICE@NORTHLEAUNITED.CA**