



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252



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March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

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 - Livestream Production ✧ Donna Rutz - Social Media Support

Ray Murrill - Reader

Minister: Rev. Liz Mackenzie – Liz@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

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



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 Lent Easter 2025 Year C Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.9 M 10/24 240004 CH11206

**Northlea United Church
Sunday, March 9, 2025**

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We gather together in the light of Christ's love.

Christ's love shines in our hearts! *(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: Lenten Proclamation — *(based on Joel 2:15-16 & 2 Corinthians 6:2)*

James Chepponis

Call to Worship:

(inspired by Psalm 25)

Let us lift up our hearts to our God in whom we trust!

God's way is truth and love;

God's love for us and all creation is as old as time.

Our God is good;

God's compassion and faithfulness are with us all our days.

May we live lives faithful to God's way.

Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn: Led By the Spirit

Bob Hurd, 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)

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the gift of your love that continues to sustain us.

Help us to remember all that you have done for us since the beginning of time,
that we may be inspired to serve you faithfully now.

Protect us from the temptations of arrogance, hatred, distrust, and despair.

O God, turn our hearts and minds to you, that we may live according to your purpose,
and that our words and deeds may convey your love, justice, and grace to the whole world.

**When our courage and faith falter, O God, remind us to look to Jesus
for direction and strength....**

(A time of silent prayer and confession)

People of God, hear the Good News. We are God's great concern.
God loves us, forgives us, and redeems us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Sanctuary Moment

❖ Listening ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

Ray Murrill

God of blessing, God of transformation, God of our Lenten journey;
help us to discern your still, small voice.
Open us to change, growth, and the hope of new life,
that we may walk with Christ. Amen.

(Rev. Ted Dodd in Celebrate God's Presence, 156, alt.)

Psalm 91: On Eagle's Wings – *(please sing the refrain)*

Voices United 808

Michael Joncas, Arr. by Craig Kingsbury

Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13

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

Anthem: Call to Remembrance – *(Psalm 25: 5-6)*

Richard Farrant (ca.1530-1580)

Reflection: Through Trials to Tribulation

❖ Responding ❖

Hymn: As the Sun with Longer Journey

Voices United 111

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Hymn: Grant Us, God, the Grace

(from VU 540)

Grant us, God, the grace of giv - ing, with a spir - it large and free,
that our - selves and all our liv - ing we may of - fer faith - ful - ly.

Offering Prayer (in unison)

Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer:

our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts, that we may be a blessing to the world you love. 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: Tree of Life

Voices United 121

Sending Forth and Blessing

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey;

may the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road;

may the love of Christ make us caring companions;

as together we go forth in the Lenten time. Amen.

(Jane V. Doull in Celebrate God's Presence, 160.)

Amen

Marty Haugen



A - men, A - men, A - - men! A - men, A - men, A - - men!

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Postlude

Music List

From page 3:

Opening Hymn: Led By the Spirit

Bob Hurd



1. Led_ by the Spir - it of our God, we_ go to fast_ and pray
2. Led_ by the Spir - it, we con - front temp - ta - tion face to face,
3. Led_ by the Spir - it, now draw near the_ wa - ters of_ re - birth
4. Led_ by the Spir - it, now sing praise to_ God the Trin - i - ty:



With Christ in - to the wil - der - ness; we_ join his pas - chal way.
 And know full well we must re - ply on_ God's re - deem - ing grace.
 With hearts that long to wor - ship God in_ spir - it and_ in truth.
 The_ Source of Life, the Liv - ing Word made flesh to set_ us free,



“Rend not your gar - ments, rend your hearts. Turn back your lives to me.”
 On_ bread a - lone_ we can - not live, but_ nour - ished by the Word.
 “Who - ev - er drinks the drink I give shall ne - ver_ thirst a - gain.”
 The Spir - it blow - ing where it will to_ make us_ friends of God:



Thus says our kind and gra - cious God, whose reign is lib - er - ty.
 We_ seek the will of_ God to do: this is our drink and food.
 Thus says the Lord who died for us, our_ Sav - ior, kin_ and friend.
 This mys - t'ry far_ be - yond our reach, yet_ near in heal - ing love.

based on Joel 2:12-13; Matthew 4:1-4; Mark 1:12-15; John 4:5-42

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Coming up at Northlea...

Today! Easter Flower Tribute begins. Remember your loved ones at Easter and help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter. Envelopes are available in the Narthex and Foyer. Remember to include your information and the names of those you want remembered. Please indicate flower tribute on memo line of cheques. Names will appear in the Easter bulletin as long as they are received by Sunday, April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday). Best efforts will be made for donations received after that date. After the Easter service on April 20th, volunteers will deliver flowers to the homebound. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact the office at office@northleaunited.ca

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

Monday, March 10, 2025 – 4:30 pm on Zoom – new Lenten Bible Study begins and will continue through to April 14.

Tuesdays from March 11 – April 8, 2025 – 12:00 noon – Soup Tuesdays are back, April 1 will be a Lunch & Learn with Rachel Chernos Lin – more information to follow in the coming weeks.

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 Mackenzie
- 5:00 pm – Love Jazz with Paul Callander and his band

Saturday, March 29, 2025 – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon – Cook-A-Palooza for Youth Without Shelter

Sunday, March 30, 2025:

- 10:30 am – Worship
- 11:30 am – Congregation Consultation
- 5:00 pm – Dinner for Youth Without Shelter

Ongoing Activities:

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

It's A Lenten Bible Study!

Please join Rev. Liz for a six-part Lenten Bible series on Mondays March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, and 14 on Zoom from 4:30-6:00 pm. This study will follow Mark's gospel account of Jesus' last week as studied and interpreted by renowned biblical scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Mark's gospel is the only one to follow Jesus on a day-by-day basis during his last week. In their book, The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Last Week in Jerusalem (HarperCollins: New York, 2006), Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan point out that Mark's day-by-day journey with Jesus is in keeping with a daily Holy Week liturgy - daily lessons about Jesus' teachings as the action moves inevitably to the cross.

You do not have to read the book to participate in the study. Rev. Liz will send out a weekly synopsis of Borg's and Crossan's chapter for study along with questions for discussion. For more information, please contact Rev. Liz at liz@northleaunited.ca. All are welcome!

Tuesdays: 12:00 noon – Soup Tuesdays from March 11 – April 8 - please note that April 1st is a Lunch & Learn with Rachel Chernos Lin. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

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

Thursdays:

- 1:30 pm – Art Circle – everyone is welcome
- 7:30 pm – Northlea Choir Practice

Next Week's Readings

From The Gathering

Second of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

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