



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 29th, 2024 10:30 am

Robert Bennet LLWL
Donna Barber ACTL

First Sunday of Christmas
Welcome!

*"As followers of Christ, we are called to be a
worshipping and learning, receiving and giving
community of faith, hope and love."*
Newcastle United Church Mission Statement

As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.

We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.

We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.

Approaching God With Praise

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

***Please stand as you are able.**

Prelude (A centering time) “Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Lighting the Christ Candle

L: We light this candle as a sign that God's Spirit is at work in the world uniting us as the Body of Christ. May Christ's Light brighten our spirits that we may be Christ's Light for others.

***Call To Worship**

L: Another Christmas is over so suddenly.

A: The glory of Christmas seems to fade like new fallen snow that is here and then gone. Already we are looking ahead to the new year.

L: Let us continue to celebrate Jesus, who as a boy was filled with wonder and devotion to God.

A: As did Jesus, may we grow in love and knowledge of God as we gather in this God's house. Amen

***Opening Hymn: VU 71**

vv. 1-4

“ 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

**1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,**

that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

2 Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

3 The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

4 O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,

**who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.**

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Wonderful God, the leaving behind of Jesus in Jerusalem was a time for the youth to be in Your House, drawing closer to you, become engaged in fruitful, probably astonishingly amazing talk with the Teachers there. As Jesus gathered in your House of Worship, so, too, do we this day. While we gather just as we are, for this brief time together, may we leave behind whatever keeps us from fully experiencing You and Your Spirit at work: our worries, our fears, our negativity to name only a few. Be with us, strengthen, nurture, teach, and guide us, we pray. We ask this in the name of One who would increase in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour: Jesus the Living Christ. Amen

***Listening For The Spirit Of God
Through The Word***

Scripture Reading

New Testament: Luke 2: 41-52

Response

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

A: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.

***Hymn: VU 340**

vv. 1-3

“Jesus, Friend of Little Children”

- 1 Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.**

- 2 Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.**

- 3 Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.**

Reflection: “Leaving Behind”

Song: “Auld Lang Syne”

v. 1

**Should old acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot
in the days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.**

Poem written by Robert Burns – 1788 (based on an older Scottish song)

Ministry of Music “Little Drummer Boy”

Our Response

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Hymn: VU 55** **v. 4**

“In The Bleak Midwinter”

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn: VU 343** **vv. 1-3**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

**1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.**

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;

it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,

to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.**

**I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.**

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,

to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.**

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

** Commissioning and Benediction*

***Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, amen, amen. (Copyright 1988 by Harold Flammer Music, a
Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.)

Postlude:

Announcements

Sunday December 29th, 2024

Welcome! **We enjoy open seating**, so please, sit where
you feel comfortable, and meet a new friend.

Today's Greeters are Myno and Judy VanDyke

Scripture Reader is Myno VanDyke

Lynne will only be in the office on Jan 30th this week.

Coffee Time Please join us in the church hall for
fellowship after the service. Today's Treats brought to you
by Congregational Life.