

*Prepare the way of the Lord,  
Make His Paths Straight*



## NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:30 am

Rev Bryan Ransom, B.A., MDiv.

Donna Barber, ARCT

Welcome!

Second Sunday of Advent – Peace

*“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

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*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) “The First Noel”**

17th Century English Carol (arranged by Phillip Keveren)

*Biblically, waiting is not just something we have to do until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be.*

**John Ortberg**

**Lighting the Advent Candles – Hope and Peace**

**VU 7 “Hope Is A Star”**

**vv. 1-2 and Chorus**

**1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

**REFRAIN**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

**REFRAIN**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

March Family-Danielle, Alex, Henry, Oliver, Selena, and Isabel

March Family: On this Second Sunday of Advent, we come in peace as a community of faith.

**A: We watch, we wait and we wonder.**

March Family: Let peace begin with us. In every breath we take, may we live in the peace of God's promise to be with us always.

**A: We wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to come into the world.**

March Family: As we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of peace. (Pause, before lighting the candle of Hope)

**A: God of peace, on this second Sunday of Advent, fill us with peace that only you can bring. Help us to live each moment in peace with all in our global community. Amen!**

(by Irma Nadeau modified by Rev. B Ransom)

**\*Opening Hymn: VU 18**

**vv. 1, 2**

**"There's A Voice In The Wilderness"**

### **Opening Prayer**

L: We hear the voice of John the Baptist calling to us from the wilderness, challenging us to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, to repent, and to make the pathway to our heart a straight one.

**A: Holy God, we know that You continually walk with us throughout our life's journey. You sent to**

# Announcements

Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

Today's Greeters are Beth West and Betty Thomas

Scripture and Announcements Reader is Arlene Crichton

Bible Study will be at 10 am this week.



## **Coffee Time**

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

## **Flowers for The Sanctuary**

If you are interested in memorial flowers for the sanctuary for Advent Season, please see Lynne in the office. She can take names of individuals the flowers are for and payment, and coordinate with Wendy to have the flowers ordered. Flowers can be 'in memory of' or in 'honour of'.

## **Key Chains**



There are still lots of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Key Chains available. Great stocking Stuffer idea! \$5 each. See Lynne during the week, or on Sunday. Marie or Marlene have some as well. Make great stocking stuffers!

## **Cheese Orders**

Cheese Orders are due TODAY. Forms are in the sanctuary and Emily St vestibule. Leave order forms with Marlene or in the office with Lynne.

## **Fundscrip Orders**

Fundscrip order forms are available for you to purchase your gift cards for Christmas. A portion of each sale is given to the church. If you give gift cards for Christmas, please consider purchasing from us. Order forms will be in the narthex as well as the Emily Street door.

## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks!**

Cookbooks are now available!! Each is \$20. Speak to Lynne or Jewel to get your copy.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Please check the Narthex for your 2025 Envelopes. See Marlene or Lynne if yours are not there.

## **Mission and Service Bows**

Our annual Mission and Service Bow campaign has begun. Donations to the M and S Fund will be designated by coloured bows which will be placed on our Christmas tree each week until Christmas. Bows may be purchased in denominations as follows: \$25-49, red; \$50-\$75, green; \$75-\$100, silver; and \$100+ is gold. However, any amount is most welcome! “Gifts with Vision” catalogues are in the Narthex. These gifts are an additional way to support the work of The United Church of Canada’s Mission and Service Partners.

<https://united-church.ca/donate>

By Phone- Local: 416-231-5931 ext. 2738

Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738

## **Crock Pot Dinners**

The next round of Crock Pot Dinners has been planned for the New Year. **Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Signs will be posted in the New Year.

## **Upcoming Services**

December 15th	Baptism
December 22nd	Communion

## **White Gift Sunday December 8th, 2024**

One of the traditions of the Church has been White Gift Sunday. White Gift Sunday is based on a Chinese legend that on the king's birthday the citizens would wrap gifts in white and bring their presents to the king. Being wrapped in the white paper, was a way of making them equal in the eyes of the beholder.

In a Methodist Church in Ohio in 1904, a minister's wife asked the congregation to wrap their gifts in white to prevent individuals and families from feeling ashamed of gifts that they brought to the Church's Christmas gift exchange. All gifts were to be seen as equal.

Over the years White Gift Sunday has seen some changes. In the past, on White Gift Sunday, the Sunday School led the Worship service with a Christmas pageant. During the service the gifts were brought forward and then were used in the church hampers to be distributed to families that did not have much for Christmas.

Thank you for your compassion to help this family in any ways we can, today.

Rev. Bryan Ransom

<https://flyladyfaye.wordpress.com/2006/12/11/history-of-the-white-gift/>

**Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

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**Contact the Church**

905-987-4515

[newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca](mailto:newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca)

**Contact Lynne in the Office**

905-987-4515

[office@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

**Book the Hall**

[property@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:property@newcastleunitedchurch.org)



We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at [nucetransfer@gmail.com](mailto:nucetransfer@gmail.com) or through CanadaHelps. **You can scan our QR code to the left to donate.** If you have any questions

please contact our interim treasurer, Susan at 289-927-6297 or [treasurer@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

***Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.***

*December 8, Second Sunday in Advent*

*Generosity does not ask, "What have you done for me lately?" Generosity is giving without counting the cost.*



us a saviour who seeks to offer us eternal life and various ways to live our daily lives. Forgive us for the times when we have turned our back on Your invitation. When we have chosen to walk our own way ignoring Your voice that lives in the wilderness of our lives, offering us Peace. Forgive us for the times when we have chosen conflict over peace making it hard for You to enter into these broken places in our lives and in the world. Forgive us when we have become so busy with diversions that prevent us from seeing You. Help us to breathe in Your Spirit of peace to help us still our hearts, minds and bodies to know that You are near.

L: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to them and proclaim that they have suffered long enough, that their penalty is paid, and their sins are forgiven.

**A: We give thanks to the One who has created us giving thanks to the One who redeems us and to the One who brings the Spirit of holiness to us today. Amen.**

[\(https://www.moravian.org/2020/12/prayers-for-the-second-sunday-after-pentecost-december-6-12-2020/](https://www.moravian.org/2020/12/prayers-for-the-second-sunday-after-pentecost-december-6-12-2020/) modified by Rev. B Ransom)

**\*Opening Hymn: VU 18**

**vv. 3,4**

**“There’s A Voice In The Wilderness”**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**New Testament: Gospel of Luke 3:1-6**

## **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 MV 173**

**vv. 1-4**

**“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”**

**1 Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.**

**2 Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.**

**3 Put peace into each other's hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.**

**4 Give thanks for strong yet tender hands,  
held out in trust and blessing.  
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,  
the heights of love expressing.**

***Your White Gifts are brought forward. Let the children and their families guide you by allowing them to place their White Gifts first, under the tree. Please come down the centre aisle and return to your pews by the outside aisles. If you are unable***

*come forward, ask your neighbour sitting nearby you, to place your gift under the tree. - Thank You*

## **Conversation Time**

**Hymn MV 173**

**v. 5**

**“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”**

**Reach out in friendship, stay with faith  
in touch with those around you.**

**Put peace into each other's hands:  
the Peace that sought and found you.**

Words: Fred Kaan; Music: Ron Klusmeier

**Reflection: “Who are the Prophets in your life?”**

**Ministry of Music “A Caroling We Go”**

Words & Music: Johnny Marks

## ***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 359  
"He Came Singing Love"**

vv 1-4

***\*Commissioning & 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: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

Composed by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson (1955)

