



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

10:30 am

## Black History Month

Rev Bryan Ransom MDiv

Donna Barber ARCT

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

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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**

\*We ask the congregation to stand as you are able.

Prelude (A centering time) “Hymn to Freedom”

Composed by Oscar Peterson

### **Lighting The Christ Candle**

We light the Christ Candle in hope that the light glows, reconnecting us with the Spirit of the Living Christ as we worship together in this place.

*Sometimes being a good ally is about opening the door for someone instead of insisting that your voice is the only one that matters.” – Kikki Kendall, Hood Feminism*

*All too often, when we see injustices, both great and small, we think, that’s terrible, but we do nothing. We say nothing. We let other people fight their own battles. We remain silent because silence is easier ... When we say nothing, when we do nothing, we are consenting to these trespasses against [one another]. Roxane Gay, Bad Feminist*

*For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. —Nelson Mandela*

**\*Opening Hymn VU 376 “Spirit of The Living God” v. 1, twice**

**1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

## **\*Call To Worship**

L: Holy One, we dream of a world where

**A: one does not scorn another, and where your love blesses the earth, paving a path toward peace.**

L: Spirit of Life, we dream of a world where

**A: all will know freedom's way, where greed no longer drains the soul nor prejudices stain our day.**

L: Breath of Life, we dream of a world where,

**A: every race will share in the bounties of the earth, where every person is free, and where hatred is not tolerated.**

L: Creator of all, we dream of such a world,

Remind us of your vision for all humanity,

Fill us with the joy of your vision that it may not fade.

**A: Creator of all that is, let your dream capture us as we worship you, seeking strength and hope as we live in your love, loving others as you love us. Amen.**

*(based on Langston Hughes "I dream of a world" by Rev B. Ransom)*

## **\*Hymn VU 708 "My Lord What A Morning" vv. 1-3**

### **REFRAIN**

**My Lord, what a morning.**

**My Lord, what a morning.**

**My Lord, what a morning**

**when the stars begin to fall.**

**1 You'll hear the trumpet sound  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

**2 You'll hear the sinner cry  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

**3 You'll hear the Christian shout  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Loving Creator, we gather to celebrate Black History Month. We come in thanksgiving and with reverence. As we meet today, we pray that our hearts be opened to hearing the stories that are current and past history with one another. We celebrate and honour them, for all they have contributed to our world, our villages, and to our lives. Bless our time this day, in the reading of scripture, the prayers of our hearts, and the joy of meeting each other, in this village where you have made your presence known, Amen.**

(United Church of Canada resource material)

**\*Hymn MV 34**

**vv. 1-4**

**“All Is Done For The Glory of God”**

**All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!  
All depends upon our glorious God.  
Amen! Amen!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!**

**Life is lived for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!  
All depends upon our glorious God.  
Amen! Amen!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!**

**Worship is for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!  
All depends upon our glorious God.  
Amen! Amen!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!**

**All is giv'n for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!  
All depends upon our glorious God.  
Amen! Amen!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!**

Words and music: Abel Nkuinji

# Announcements

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Russ and Wendy Westwood.

Scripture Reader is Colleen Harrison and Robin Blesse.

Bible Study will be on Wednesday at 10 am.



## **Coffee Time**

Please join us in the hall after the service for fellowship. This week's luncheon brought to you by Congregational Life.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Reminder that the AGM will be TODAY! February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 pm, in the church hall, after the service and lunch. We hope you will be able to join in.

## **Community Soup Suppers**

Our soup suppers will continue this month. If you are bringing a dish, please sign up on the sheets by the office door. Next dinner dates will be **tomorrow, as well as March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## **Office Hours**

Lynne will be away on Thursday but will be in the office on Friday.

## **World Day of Prayer**

Newcastle United Church will hold this year's World Day of Prayer on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm. All are welcome.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

February 23rd, 1 pm	Annual General Meeting
March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm	Vision 200 Meetings
March 7th, 1:30 pm	World Day of Prayer, at NUC
March 9 <sup>th</sup> April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Communion Dates
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism
June 8 <sup>th</sup> , Pentecost	Communion, 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary United Church

### **Food Bank**

This week is Foodbank week. Please place items on the pew on the north wall. Monetary donations also gratefully accepted and can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you.

### **Camp Quin Mo Lac Positions**

We are so excited to get the summer underway and look forward to meeting the team that will usher our campers through the 75th year of camping at Quin-Mo-Lac. Please note the application deadlines below and submit your application today! Application Deadlines:

- Volunteer Counsellors – Application deadline March 16, 2025



## **June Plant Sale**

The Stewards are planning their annual Yard, Plant and Bake Sale for Sat. June 14. It's a great opportunity to clean out and pack up your 'old stuff', split your perennials, and do some baking, all to support the running of our church. We couldn't do it without your help!

## **Opportunity to Pay Tribute - Observer**

We all carry the memory of beloved church leaders or congregation members who have shaped our lives and faith communities. Their legacy lives on in the work they did and in the lives they touched. We invite you/your church to honour the lasting impact of someone who made a difference in your congregation or the wider church. By making a memorial donation online or by phone before March 15, you'll celebrate their devotion and service in a meaningful and lasting way. Their name will be featured in the June historic keepsake centennial edition. This is a beautiful opportunity to pay tribute to those whose lives have profoundly shaped your faith community and the broader story of the church. Please spread the word!

Donate online here <https://broadview.org/donate/> or by phone at 1-800-936-4566 Ext. 230

You can pre-order extra copies of the Broadview 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Order Deadline: April 7

Delivery Date: May 9. Secure your church's pre-order by calling 416-960-8500 ext 227

### *February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

*Too often we get stuck in the muck of human things—doomscrolling, worrying about possessions, fretting over appearances. Jesus tells those who listen to set our mind on the Divine—generosity and prayer, loving service and worship—and spend our time and resources making the world better for all.*



We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at [nucetransfer@gmail.com](mailto:nucetransfer@gmail.com) using the answer "Newcastle". You can also send via [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org)  
**You can scan our QR code to the left to donate.**  
If you have any questions please contact our 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.*

**Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

905-922-8394

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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)

*Listening For The Spirit Of God  
Through The Word*

**Scripture Reading**

**New Testament**

**Mark 1:29-39**

**Luke 6:17-26 and 37-38**

**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 “This Little Light of Mine” vv. 1-3**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine**

**Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine**

**Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine**

**Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine**

**Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Conversation Time**

**\*Hymn “This Little Light of Mine”**

**v. 4**

**See the light spreading 'round the world, see all the faces shine  
See the light spreading 'round the world, see all the faces shine  
See the light spreading 'round the world, see all the faces shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

**Reflection**

**Prayer against Racism**

L: Holy One,  
In Your image You have created humankind,  
in great diversity. We give thanks for the  
differences—of cultures and ethnicities, of histories and life-stories, of  
skin colour and language and hearts that love the world.  
We watch in horror as power desecrates Black and Brown bodies;  
walks on their sacredness,  
kills and subjugates,  
in thousands of ways,  
hidden and overt.  
We must not stop at watching— held back from right action by our  
horror or seeming powerlessness.

**A: Grant us hearts that listen and learn;  
egos that are willing to accept when our own racism is called out.  
Grant us courage, to disassemble the systems, the stories, the  
myths, that privilege whiteness have over all others. Give us your  
Holy Spirit’s wind to call out racism in all its forms—  
inside our hearts,  
inside the church,  
and in your world.  
Give us the strength, the wisdom and the will  
to root out White Fragility, and White Supremacy,**

**so that they will never again do harm, never again take away a person's self integrity, never again kill.**

**Help us to be anti-racist,**

**in all that we say,**

**in all that we do,**

**in all that we are.**

**It is time. It is well past time.**

**God of all creation,**

**bless us all with what we need,**

**to march on.**

**To live this work of anti-racism.**

**Today.**

**Every day and always.**

**May it be so, We pray in Jesus' name . Amen**

(by the Right Rev. Richard Bott past Moderator of The UCC)

## **Ministry of Music "Do Lord Remember Me"**

African-American Spiritual

### ***Our Response***

#### **Mission and Service**

#### **Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Hymn VU 588 "Many Are the Lightbeams" v. 3**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one.**

**Love's the gift of Jesus.**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one;**

**we are one in Christ.**

#### **Dedication Of The Offering**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **\*Closing Hymn VU 575**

**vv. 1-4**

#### **“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”**

- 1 I’m gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I’m gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**
  
- 2 I’m gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I’m gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**
  
- 3 I’m gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I’m gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**
  
- 4 I’m gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I’m gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

## ***\*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.**

**Postlude: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"** Traditional Spiritual

# Canadian Black History

E S N C Q A R G A X C W A H Z G D Y J I D F Y G  
J A L H N C E A O Y O H H J U V Z A E P E E V Z  
X W G E U Z J S V C C V E B Q U I N A S D L H F  
I F Y O Z P I D M A B H T R K J Z W N K F M U D  
Y L Y W Z T O F A R V U J U R C S P A G S G R B  
W U N C X U T H K R G D R N T L K T U Y U P O Y  
I C Z Z V E V U A I S R O Y L R R R G A N L S I  
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X R W J R M U I T S W O Z I V F L G I M B W R N  
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O M F B A N N E C O O L S C P E R R R Z X I O K  
V H A S H S Y X F P X H C M R Q T S J O H P W A  
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E S D A C V U I E H U G H B U R N E T T B G U D  
Y T W W F B T P F Y Q C D O N A L D O L I V E R

Jean Augustine

Angela James

Anne Cools

Bruny Surin

Carrie Best

Donald Oliver

Donovan Bailey

Hugh Burnett

Luck Mervil

Maka Kotto

Rosemary Brown