



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:30 am

First Sunday of Epiphany

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**

**Announcements**

***\*Indicates for congregation to stand as you are able.***

**Prelude (A centering time) “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”** Composed by Charles C. Converse

Arranged by Victor Labenske

**Lighting The Christ Candle**

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

*“Every end is a new beginning.” – Proverb*  
*“No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again.” – Buddha*

**\*Call To Worship**

**L:** Holy One, You invite us to step out of our old ways to embrace something new.

**A: Creator, what is it that You are encouraging us to live in our daily lives?**

**L:** Holy One, You set before us a path for living a life full of compassion and kindness.

**A: Creator, how do we encompass such qualities in our living?**

L: Holy One, You have set before us the Way of Christ through the Christmas Child named Jesus.

**A: Creator, where is this Christ Child so we too, can follow him?**

L: Come, and behold the Christ wherever forgiveness and humility is lived out, kindness and meekness is shown to others, and love is given freely.

**A: Remind us Creator, as we worship in Your name, of the spiritual clothes that You have prepared for us to wear in our daily lives.**

L: Come and worship. Be open to the gifts of God's grace. Be attentive to where the Living Spirit is leading you to experience the wonder of God's gifts.

(by Rev. B. Ransom)

### **Opening Prayer**

**Holy Mystery, into Your presence we come to discover You more fully. Through a child, Jesus, the fullness of Your spirit pours out onto the streets and into the hearts of humanity. Through our worship, let Your Word penetrate our most inward thoughts with Your love. For it is Your love that frees us from our past, encouraging us to adopt a new life, a new way of being in this world. As seekers of Your presence, we let our hearts be free and open to the gentleness of Your compassionate Spirit, directing us to a way of living in Your creation that brings harmony and peace. Amen.**(by Rev. B. Ransom)

**\*Opening Hymn: VU 96**

**vv. 1-5**

**“Will You Come And See The Light**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**New Testament**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

**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 150**

**vv. 1, 2**

**“Spirit God, Be Our Breath”**

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.**

**Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.**

**Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn,**

**Spirit God, be our song.**

**Patient God: sooth our pride, calm our fear.**

**Comfort us. When we know you are near,**

**We grow more certain, our vision is clear.**

**Patient God, calm our fear.**

**Conversation Time**

**Hymn: MV 150**

**vv. 3, 4**

**“Spirit God, Be Our Breath”**

**Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.**

**Reaching out, joining hands as we share,**

**we seek your guidance through friendship and care.**

**Loving God, be our prayer.**

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the  
new dawn,**

**Spirit God, be our song.**

Words and Music: Bruce Harding

**Reflection: "What Have You Put On?"**

**Ministry of Music "When in Our Music God Is  
Glorified"** Words: Fred Pratt Green Music: Charles Villiers Stanford

### *Our Response*

**Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Hymn: VU 588**

**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: MV 209**

**vv. 1-3**

**"Go Make A Diff'rence"**

#### **REFRAIN**

**Go, make a difference. We can make a difference.**

**Go make a difference in the world.**

**Go make a difference. We can make a difference.**

**Go make a difference in the world.**

**We are the salt of the earth,  
Called to let the people see  
The love of God for you and me.  
We are the light of the world,  
Not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a difference in the world. REFRAIN**

**We are the hands of Christ  
Reaching out to those in need,  
The face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope;  
We are the voice of peace.  
Go make a difference in the world. REFRAIN**

**So let your love shine on,  
Let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a difference in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ  
Will be with us as we go.  
Go make a difference in the world. REFRAIN**

Words and music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

### ***\*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 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Music: John Hughes Arranged by Phillip Keveren

## **Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

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## **Book the Hall**

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*January 12: Baptism of the Lord*

*How can we be joy, shining into joyless places and offering our gifts to the world?*