



*they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense
and myrrh*

NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

January 5th, 2024

10:30 am

Happy New Year

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

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

Prelude (A centering time) “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Traditional English Carol

“Every end is a new beginning.” – Proverb

“No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again.” – Buddha

Call To Worship

(Based on Psalm 8)

L: A new year has begun!

A: Let us rejoice and be happy!

L: Are you ready to give God praise?

A: We ARE ready!

L: Are you ready to leave behind the baggage gathered over the past year?

A: We are ready!

L: Are you ready to step out in faith?

A: We are ready!

L: Are you ready to love and forgive?

A: We are ready!

L: Even the one who hurt you the most?

A: We are ready!

L: Are you ready to listen to what God's vision is about?

A: We are yours and we are ready to be present for you throughout this New Year!

Opening Prayer

God of past, present, and future, we gather to worship, singing and praising your Holy Name. We come to pray, to listen for your voice, and to be led by Your Holy Spirit into the future. Individually, we have reflected on the past year, giving thanks for moments of celebration and for those times when we wonder how we got through moments of anxiety, confusion, and loss. Throughout it all, we give you thanks that Your promise to love us in all circumstances was never withheld from us.

We greet the New Year and ask your blessing upon it. We also ask that Your Holy Presence journey with us - guiding us, supporting our actions of helping others with the gift of your love, welcoming the stranger and being the voice for the voiceless. Let this New Year be full of blessings and hope.

Amen

***Opening Hymn: VU 79
"Arise Your Light Is Come"**

vv. 1-4

*Listening For The Spirit Of God
Through The Word*

Scripture Reading

Hebrew Text (Old Testament)

Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament

Mathew 2:1-12

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 158**

vv. 1-3

“Dream a Dream”

**Dream a dream, a hopeful dream,
as children do on Christmas Eve,
imaginings, surprising things
to hold and to believe.**

**Dream a time, this Christmas time,
when no one's hungry or afraid;
that weapons go and harvests grow,
that friends are met and made.**

**Dream a peace, our planet's peace,
the greening of the earth at play,
the holy ground where life is found,
where God has touched the clay.**

Conversation Time

***Hymn: MV 158**
“Dream a Dream”

v. 4

**Dream a gift, the Christmas gift
that changes every thing we see:
the shimmering of angel wing,
the Child, the Mystery.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray Music: Ron Klusmeier

Reflection

Ministry of Music: “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Our Response

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Hymn: VU 588** **v. 3**

**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 82**
“A Light Is Gleaming”

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: "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery"

English traditional melody

Dream a Dream

158

♩ = 100 F B^b C (Dm C) F B^b C F

1 Dream a dream, a hope - ful dream, as chil - dren
 2 Dream a time, this Christ - mas time, when no one's
 3 Dream a peace, our plan - et's peace, the green - ing
 4 Dream a gift, the Christ - mas gift that chang - es

B^b Dm B^b C F B^b C (Dm C) F B^b

do on Christ - mas Eve, i - mag - in - ings, sur - pris - ing
 hun - gry or a - fraid; that weap - ons go and har - vests
 of the earth at play, the ho - ly ground where life is
 ev - ery thing we see: the shim - mer - ing of an - gel

C Am B^b C^{7sus4} F B^b F

things to hold and to be - lieve. (to be - lieve.)
 grow, that friends are met and made. (met and made.)
 found, where God has touched the clay. (touched the clay.)
 wing, the Child, the Mys - ter - y. (Mys - ter - y.)