



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

March 9th, 2025

10:30 am

First Sunday of Lent

Rev Bryan Ransom MDiv

Donna Barber ARCT

“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
Announcements**

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

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.**

Prelude (A centering time) “To the Desert Jesus Came”

*"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves...What is it that stands
between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us
and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out,
without a moment's hesitation." — Catherine Doherty*

***Opening Hymn VU 376**

v. 1

“Spirit of The Living God”

**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: Lead us God, into the season of Lent,

A: Help us to reflect on the areas of our lives that call for change.

L: Holy One, come with us as we journey though Lent,

A: strengthen us, as we join together our voices in praising You.

L: Guide us with Your Holy Presence to pay attention to aspects of our living that need to change by,

A: linking us to the stories of Jesus, that we may find the courage and strength to face the challenges and to stand fast in our faith through the tough times in our lives.

L: In all of these challenges, we continue to celebrate in Your Holy Name.

A: We come In Christ's name proclaiming that the powers and forces of this world can not save us, only Your Holy Spirit of forgiveness and love can.

L: Come let us worship!

(David Spark's prayer/Gathering/lent 2025- modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

***Hymn VU 220**

vv. 1-4

"Praise To The Lord The Almighty"

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;

**O my soul, praise him, at all times your health
and salvation.**

Come, all who hear:

**brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.**

**Have you not seen
how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:**

**ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us**

**4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.**

Extinguishing A Lenten Candle - Opening Prayer – Candle of Hope

***Hymn VU 108**

v.1

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”

**1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

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

Scripture Reading

New Testament: Gospel of Luke 4:1-13

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 65**

“When We Are Tested”

**1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

Conversation Time

Hymn MV 65

v. 4

“When We Are Tested”

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Words: Ruth Duck Music: Ruth Watson Henderson

Reflection

Ministry of Music “Jesus, Tempted in the Desert”

Announcements

Sunday March 2nd, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Debbie Dunham and Dorothy Stapleton.

Scripture Reader is Gail Empey.

Bible Study is scheduled on Wednesday at 10 am.



Coffee Time

Please join us in the hall after the service for fellowship. This week's treats brought to you by UCW.

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts from 2024 are available in the office. See Lynne or Susan to pick up yours.

UCW Meeting

Tomorrow is the March UCW Meeting at 1 pm in the church hall. All Ladies of the congregation are welcome.

Dates to Take Note of....

March 10th, 1 pm

UCW Meeting

March 13th, 20th 7:00 pm

Vision 200 Meetings

March 9th

April 13th, 18th, 20th

Easter Communion Dates

May 11th

Baptism

June 8th, Pentecost

Communion, 100th Anniversary
United Church



Did you set you clocks
ahead???

Cheese Orders

Cheese forms are in the narthex and the Emily St Vestibule. Orders Due March 16th.

East Central Ontario Region UCW Annual Meeting

ECORC Annual UCW Meeting is on April 10th, 2025 at Westdale United Church in Peterborough. “Called by the Spirit” is this year’s topic. Cost is \$30. Register at.....

<https://ecorcuccan.ca/event/east-central-ontario-region-ucw-annual-meeting/>

Stewardship Second.....

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

Giving and sharing as a first priority, is what keeps us in good relations with our neighbours and our neighbourhood

We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at nucetransfer@gmail.com using the answer

“Newcastle”. You can also send via 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 office@newcastleunitedchurch.org *Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.*



Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly

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Contact the Church

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Contact Lynne in the Office

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office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Book the Hall

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Our Response

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Hymn VU 544**

“In Gratitude And Humble Trust”

In gratitude and humble trust

we bring our best today

to serve your cause and share your love

with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us

in Jesus Christ, your Son,

teach us to give ourselves each day

until life's work is done.

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers of the People

Communion

***Communion Hymn MV 62**

“There is Room For All”

There is room for all

in the shadow of God's wing;

there is room for all,

sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

“My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust.”

There is room for all,

there is room for all!

Invitation To The Table

At the Table

L: God is with you!

A: God is with us all.

L: Open wide your hearts.

A: We open them completely to the Spirit of God.

L: May God's love nurture your wandering spirits each day. And God's light sustain your souls each night.

Prayer of Communion

This is a season of wilderness -

The season we grasp to understand the Divine just a little more.

This is the time for us to reach inward to find the self that God sees.

This is the chance for us to gaze outward, to discover the Christ in our midst.

The Lenten roads are long, yet full of gifts.

The Lenten paths often seem chilly, yet warm with the winds of the Spirit.

The Spirit of God is the light that leads us in the hushed nights.

For Christ is our companion on the journey into the intense sunlight of day.

We remember his time in the wilderness -

The struggles. The hunger. The peace.

In the desert places in our lives we too seek the Divine in our midst.

On this journey, we crave the bread of life.

On our desert roads, we thirst for the fruit of the vine, the cup of blessings.

Through Jesus the Christ's story, we remember the night before his arrest,

The night of serenity, solemnity, and love.

Jesus took in his hands bread from the table.

He broke it and blessed it.
“Eat in remembrance of me,” he said.
And after supper,
As the night grew long,
Jesus took a cup, and filled it with the fruit of the vine.
As he blessed it, he spoke aloud to them
“Take and drink and always remember me.”
May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness,
fill us with the hope of God.
Holy Spirit surround these elements.
May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness,
becoming our strength on this journey, filling our lives with love. Amen.

Sharing The Bread and Cup

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Please come down the center aisle and return to your place by the side aisle. Please place empty communion cups in the baskets on the front pew. Thank you.

For those who are unable please let the ushers know by raising your hand so we can serve you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving in unison

Divine Light of Our Journey - In a spirit of gratitude we give thanks for this time at Your Holy Meal.

**This time at the Table filled us with strength,
Knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey,
We will find your peace surrounding us.**

Amen.

(<https://michelleorigian.com/2021/03/07/a-communion-liturgy-for-lent/> modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

***Closing Hymn VU 114**

vv. 1-5

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

- 1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

- 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about your way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

- 3 Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?**

- 4 If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.**

- 5 Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

****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: "Shine Jesus Shine"

Words and music: Graham Kendrick

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |

