



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

10:30 am

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday

# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

Rev Bryan Ransom, B.A., MDiv.  
Donna Barber, ARCT

Today We Welcome....

Guest Minister,  
Rev Don Stiles Junior

Guest Organist,  
Dr Fred Graham

Remembering the past, the future is ours!

*“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**

**\*All who are able are invited to stand.**

**Prelude (A centering time): “Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring”** J.S. Bach

**Variations on “Amazing Grace”** Denis Bedard

Guest Organist: Dr Fred Graham

*To fall in love with God is the greatest romance;  
to seek him is the greatest adventure;  
to find him is the greatest human achievement.  
~Saint Augustine*

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**L:** We light this candle as a sign that God's Spirit is at work in the world. May Christ's Light brighten our spirits that we may be Christ's light for others.

**Ministry of Music: “Old-Time Religion Medley”** Arranged by John Turner

Piano duet: Hope Pascoe & Donna Barber

***Call To Worship***

**L:** God calls us to remember our history.

**A: God calls us to act for the sake of our future.**

**L:** God calls us to dream new dreams.

**A: God calls us to forge new adventures.**

L: God calls us to love and service.

**A: God calls us to be Christ's disciples.**

**May we hear God's call and follow. Amen**

**\*Opening Hymn: MV 1**

**vv. 1-5**

**"Let Us Build a House"**

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,**

**a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,**

**rock of faith and vault of grace;**

**here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,**

**all are welcome in this place.**

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,**

**where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness**

**and as symbol of God's grace;**

**here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,**

**all are welcome in this place.**

**3 Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;**

**a banquet hall on holy ground,**

**where peace and justice meet.**

**Here the love of God, through Jesus,**

**is revealed in time and space;**

**as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

Words and music: Marty Haugen

### **Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

**Faithful God, we thank you for the ways we glimpse Your  
goodness and glory. We thank You for the joy of living. We ask  
Your blessing upon our church community. Thank You for the  
faith, the hope, and the love which have sustained us and guided  
us over our two hundred years of ministry as a congregation of  
The United Church of Canada. May we, as Newcastle United  
Church, raise our voices in thanks and praise for Your goodness,  
for Your guidance, and for Your leading. Help us to continue to**

**follow the path of Jesus, who is our hope and our way. Lord, continue to lead and bless this congregation as it seeks out Your ministry in the future. And like the ingredients stirred into a recipe, may our spirits, be stirred by Your Living Spirit. Amen.** (Lila Anderson, St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church modified by Rev. B. Ransom )

## **Ministry of Music “Thankful”**

Soloist: Karen Nichol

Words and Music: David Foster, Carole Bayer Sager & Richard Page

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

#### **Scripture Readings**

**Hebrew Text Ruth 1:1-18**

**New Testament Mark 12:28-34**

#### **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: VU 579**

**vv. 1, 2**

**“The Church Is Wherever God’s People”**

#### **Conversation Time**

**\*Hymn: MV 138**

**vv. 1-4**

**“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”**

**1. My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

**2. My Lord colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before.  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

### **REFRAIN**

**We'll never walk on water  
if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we'll never move the gravestones  
if we're not prepared to die, and realize,  
there are worlds outside the lines.**

**3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries, where I've never been  
before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. REFRAIN**

**4. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries, where I've never been  
before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

Words and music: Gordon Light

### **Reflection: “Not Far from the Kingdom of God”**

Rev Don Stiles Jnr

### **Ministry of Music “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”**

Newcastle United Church Choir – former & current members

Music by Charles H. Gabriel; Words by R.H. McDaniel



# Thank you



*We would like to thank Rev Don Stiles Jnr and Dr Fred Graham for joining us in today's prestigious Anniversary Service. With their wonderful talents, it has made our service very special and meaningful.*

*Rev Stiles has shared some special words for us to take into our next 200 years.*

*Dr Graham has shared his wonderful talents of music as well as his own words for us to take into the future.*

*Thank you both for making this such a momentous occasion.*

*Thank You to Rev Bryan for his spiritual leadership over the past two years. We are grateful that you able to be with us for this occasion. Thank you to Donna for your gift of music - making music come to life, at Newcastle United Church. Thank you both, this week and every week.*

*Thank you as well, to all those involved with the Anniversary Committee for all of your hard work over the past few months, making this such a special event.*

*Lastly, thank you to those returning choir members who made the music especially meaningful, today.*

# Announcements

Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

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

Today's Greeters are Diane Winchester and Elaine Spicer

Scripture and Announcements Reader is Joyce King

Bible Study will be at 10 am this week, on Wednesday.



## Reception

Please join us after the service, for a reception in the hall, behind the choir loft. Use doors to the right and left of the choir.

## Faith in Motion

Our Young People's Faith programming is now up and running for the fall. However, we could use some help:

- New leaders are needed for the Sunday morning Faith in Motion program

- Also, people who might be able to contribute new ideas, help with special events, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Robin at [youngfaith@newcastleuntitedchurch.org](mailto:youngfaith@newcastleuntitedchurch.org)

## **Visioning 200**

It was moved that the Official Board strike a committee to conduct a revisioning exercise, led by Rev. Ransom, and consisting of representation as follows: 2 members from the Search Committee, 2 members from Session, one member from Stewards and 2 from the congregation at large. Vision 200 Team will meet next on **Thursday November 7th**. If you wish to join, please come out or let Rev Bryan know your interests in joining the team.

## **Bazaar & Silent Auction**

Continue to drop off jewellery, preserves, new-to-you or any items you wish to donate, and Keep Baking!!! Items for the Silent Auction can be dropped off at the church hall next Thursday, or before service on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at the latest. Gently used, vintage or antique items are welcome. The day of the Bazaar will have the Ganaraska Quilt Guild with a display in the Sanctuary. Stop by to look while you are at the Bazaar.

## **Crock Pot Dinners**

Tomorrow is our next dinner. Sign up sheets are on the board by the office or just bring your appetite!!

**Nov 4th and 18th.**

## **Girl Guide Cookies!**



The Minty Girl Guide cookies are back. Both Mint and Chocolate/Vanilla are available. See Lynne in the office.

**Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

905-922-8394

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

**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.***

*Stewardship Second..... November 3rd*

*The kingdom of God is a lot closer than you may imagine. It appears every time you are generous and caring.*

## ***Our Response***

### **Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Hymn: MV 34**

**v. 1**

**“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!**

Words and music: Abel Nkuinji

### **Dedication Of The Offering**

#### **Prayers Of the People**

led by Dr Fred Graham

FG: We thank you, everlasting God,  
for the Church of Christ in all the world,  
and for symbols of its presence in the world:  
buildings that glorify your name,  
windows that remind us of saints who went before us,  
and the empty cross, that proclaims the power of resurrection and the  
hope of life everlasting.

**A: God hear our prayer, and bless us through your love.**

FG: With joy, we recall the words of the Saviour, who said that where  
two or three are gathered in his name,  
God (Three-in-One) is always present, and we give thanks that  
pioneers in the faith persevered  
in gathering to bring the Good News to Clarke Township and  
Newcastle Village for over 200 years. For this, we give thanks and

praise, and pray that sharing the good news will continue in our day through our witness.

**A: God, hear our prayer, and bless us through your love.**

FG: With gratitude, we lift up the company of the faithful who built up this congregation: teachers and superintendents in the church school, music directors and singers who inspired worshippers through the ministry of music, UCW leaders and members who challenged the congregation to look beyond the walls of this place, as well as Preachers and pastors who guided the flock, consoled those in mourning, and fed the faithful in body and in spirit through all the years. We offer thanks for this rich legacy.

**A: God hear our prayer, and bless us through your love.**

FG: Remembering the fellowship of *all* your saints, whom we bring to mind in a moment of silence, \_\_\_ and their commitment to loving one another even as you have loved us, we rejoice that they have found a resting place in your loving arms.

We ask that all the saints who in our own time and place carry forward the faith mission of this congregation: the Staff; the Trustees; the Search Committee; other activity groups -- will also feel your constant embrace.

**A: God hear our prayer, and bless us through your love.**

FG: Let us pray for our municipality, for our province, for our country, and for neighbouring countries, many of whom face division, strife, despair and challenges beyond our imagination. Grant that leaders and citizens alike will strive to seek justice, love, mercy and kindness, and walk humbly in your Way.

**A: God hear our prayer, and bless us through your love.**

FG: Gracious and generous Mystery, as we gather at your holy table,  
as we go to our homes and work in the coming days,  
We ask that you send your Holy Spirit into our lives.  
Open our ears, that we may hear your voice in all that happens to us;  
Open our eyes, that we may see the needs of friend and neighbour;  
Open our hands, that we may follow your will and your way;  
Open our lips, that we may share the Good news of Jesus, bringing  
comfort, hope and contentment to others;  
Open our minds, that we may always be guided by your truth;  
Open our hearts, that we may grow in love for you and our companions  
in the faith.

**A: Compassionate God, hear our prayers, and bless us through  
your love.**

These prayers we offer in the strong name of Jesus,  
who taught all his followers to pray, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven . . . Amen.**

### **Invitation to The Table**

L: This table does not belong to any denomination,  
church or community. Yet as a congregation we have gathered around  
it for over 200 years.

This table belongs to Jesus.

It was at this table that he met people,  
heard their stories and shared his.

It was at this table that he deepened his friendship  
with poor folk and prostitutes,  
the business class and puzzled bystanders. It is that over time has  
nourished our relationship with Christ.

It was at table that he shared profound insights  
into who God is and what God wants.  
And it was at table, with bread and wine,  
that he initiated the sacrament we now celebrate.

So come to this table that for two centuries have given strength and courage to many.

Leave behind any baggage of arrogance or unworthiness.

Do not think, 'This is not for me.'

Think rather of Jesus saying, 'I am for you,' and accept his invitation to be the friend he cherishes and longs to feed. Come and receive the grace of the Holy Other.

*(Iona Community)*

**\*Communion Hymn: VU 467**

**vv. 1-3**

**“One Bread, One Body”**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

L: Prayer of Thanksgiving, May the God of creation be with you,

**A: and with you as well.**

L: Let us open our hearts to the grace of God.

**A: We lift them to the One whose love never ends.**

L: Join in singing glad songs of praise to our God.

**A: We will sing and praise with cheerful hearts.**

L: When chaos obscured what could be and emptiness was all that existed, God, your Spirit of imagination was spoken flinging a variety of planets into the universes, filling the waters with creatures beyond number, planting more than one kind of tree, as creation's beauty and wonder sprang forth. You offered all this richness and creativity to those whom you crafted in your divine image,

**A: Holy, Holy, Holy creation was given breath bringing forth light and life into being.**

L: When a people felt the hardship of slavery and death, your imagination flowed and a community was given life. The community



was led by a person, open to your vision where new possibilities became real.

**A: Holy, Holy, Holy, community was given breath as your imagination brought forth hope of new beginnings**

L: Another time and place, a new community settled, called Newcastle. People prayed and worshipped and Your Spirit gave them a dream that a place of worship could be possible. The people gathered, they listened and they grew. In time, a vision began to stir within their hearts. A vision was born and a place of worship, that had only been imagined, came into being.

**A: Holy, Holy, Holy a spiritual home was built where women, children and men could dream dreams and listen to Your Holy imagination; where wisdom, faith, love and grace could be felt and shared.**

L: Two hundred years ago in this place, a vision was set into motion by Your Spirit. We gather around your Holy Table, where light and life radiate through the hope of all who have shared in that dream. We are gifted with this legacy of a place where all are welcome, a place where hope can be restored, and a place where new beginnings are conceived. Throughout the decades, You continued to call children, women and men to speak to us, reminding us of your vision of creation where all are equal and included. Holy One, remind us what continues to be at the heart of this community that has gathered over the centuries. We gather at Your Table seeking strength and courage to journey with you into the future. We are reminded, as were those before us, to speak and to live Your love and grace to all.

**A: Holy, Holy, Holy you are there with Your Spirit bringing life to us in new ways.**

L: Creator of the past, the Present and the future, You remind us of who we are in spite of our frailties. When we let our ego cause others

to stumble, you choose to give us a hand, sending your Word to remind us of your forgiveness and grace in our living. You call us to find pathways of faith that lead us to be Christ for others.

Help us to reimagine what it means for us to be your Living Presence in this place today and in the time to come.

We lift up our songs of thanksgiving to you:

**A: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who heals our broken hearts.**

**All creation sings praises to you in every moment.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to walk with us.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

L: Holy One,

you sent Jesus to become one of us, so that we would know your hopes for us without any doubt or hesitation. Your Word, through Jesus, came to restore us to life; He taught so we would understand Your deep and holy longing for us to know your Heart, Jesus came so we could be filled with Your love; he came and gave his all for us, so that the power of sin might be broken and the fear of death be left behind in the tomb in order that the resurrection of hope could be offered to all.

As we remember his life and teachings at this table, we recall his death and resurrection, we proclaim that faith is a mystery:

**A: Jesus died, not letting the cross**

**be a stumbling block in trusting you, God.**

**Jesus was raised, not letting death become**

**a stumbling block to your resurrection power;**

**Jesus will come again, for time and space will not**

**be stumbling blocks to you, Holy One, in bringing us to resurrected life.**

A: Holy One, you take the simple things in life, such as everyday bread and the ordinary cup, and transform them. Pour your Spirit of life upon them making them Holy.

As we gather around Your Table, on this Anniversary Sunday, we remember the many of the past who held to your resurrected vision.

We remember in the broken bread, which gives us life to  
go forth to offer joy to those who mourn,  
justice for those who are forgotten and  
companionship to the lonely.

In so doing we share the vision of new life.

We remember in the cup of grace which nourishes us, so we can reach out

to give a cup of peace for the sacredness of all life,  
a listening ear for those no one hears,  
a voice to challenge cruel and hate-filled words.

In so doing we share the vision of new life.

**A: Today as we are gathered with sisters and brothers from every time and place, we will join in singing your praises, God in Community, made holy in Oneness by the Creator's Spirit. Amen.**

Remembering - The breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

L: The Bread of Life for all who hunger.

The Cup of Compassion for a broken world.

## **Sharing of Bread and Wine**

### **Post Communion Prayer (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 has filled us with strength, as we continue our journey as a community of faith. Let Your peace surround us, Your love fill us and Your Living Spirit challenge our**

**imaginations with new possibilities of being Your community of faith, in Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.**

Anniversary Communion <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> (By Thomas Shuman, modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

**\*Closing Hymn: VU 601**

**vv. 1-5**

**“The Church of Christ in Every Age”**

***\*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.**

Words are on the screens or inside the front cover of the hymn books.

**Postlude: Toccata on “Amazing Grace”** Denis Bedard

Guest Organist: Dr Fred Graham