



**November 26, 2023  
10:30 am**

**NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH**

November 26, 2023  
10:30 am

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**

**Announcements**

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

**Prelude (A centering time)**

**Lighting The Christ Candle**

**As we light the Christ candle, we are reminded that Christ came into the world to be a light and inspiration to all peoples and not just to a select few. We are called to follow that light by living with respect for all of creation. (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TRC-worship-May31.pdf>)**

**\*Responsive Song: Jesus We Are Here  
x2 MV 189**

**Jesus, we are here;  
Jesus, we are here;  
Jesus, we are here;  
We are here for you.**

**\*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

**L: We come, for God gathers us here,  
with that community called faith:**

**A: where the hungry are served first,  
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

**L: We come, for God welcomes us here  
into that home called grace:**

**A: where the naked are clothed in robes of  
hope; where the stranger is embraced as  
the long-lost prodigal.**

**L: We come, for God reunites us here,**

**A: sisters and brothers in that family called  
love: where the imprisoned model justice,  
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

**(by Thom Shuman)**

**Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

**Creator, we come to praise you as our God. As we worship you, open our hearts and minds to your Living Presence amongst us. Show us the ways in which you present yourself to us and to those who are in need of care. May our praise be not just with our lips, but with all of our being. Let our worship emerge out of our love for you as we seek the ways of reflecting your compassion for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: God Who Spreads The Boundless  
Prairie MV 53  
(to the tune of Ode To Joy)**

**God who spread the boundless prairie  
When the ancient oceans died,  
Brought to birth the tribes and nations  
Born in dignity and pride;  
Now as one we seek your spirit,  
Reaching for your loving hand.  
Called by you our great creator,  
Sharing in this sacred land.**

**God who came to us in Jesus,  
Loved us, suffered, died, and rose  
Guide us well and give us wisdom  
As the pace of knowledge grows.  
Lord remind us when you call us  
To decisions, ways unknown  
Once for always you have promised  
That we do not walk alone.**

**God who forms a diverse people  
Call us to a common task  
Grace and strength you freely give us  
When in prayer we humbly ask.  
Races, genders, you have made us  
Different, yet your great intent  
Joins us in one loving saviour  
Sharing Word and Sacrament.**

**God who raised our rolling foothills  
Crowned with mountain peaks beyond,  
Call us now to love and serve you,  
Joyfully will we respond.  
God whose glory past and present  
Lights us on our future way.  
Now baptize us with your spirit,  
Build tomorrow's church today.  
Words: Herbert O'Driscoll; Music: Judith Snowdon**

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

### **Scripture Readings:**

**New Testament: Matthew 25:31-46**

### ***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: Like A Child**

**VU 366**

### **Conversation Time**

### **Reflection:**

### **Ministry of Music:**

**"Will We Know Him?"**

**"Prepare the Way" (Besig/Price)**

## **Our Response To The Living Spirit Of God**

### **Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Response: "All is Done For  
The Glory Of God" vv. 2&4**

**MV 34**

**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!**

**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!**

### **Dedication Of The Offering**



## Prayers

**\*Closing Hymn: "Spirit, Open My Heart"**

**MV 79**

### **REFRAIN**

**Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living,  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender,  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender..... REFRAIN**

**Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory..... REFRAIN**

**May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another..... REFRAIN**  
Music: Traditional Irish Melody; Words: Ruth Duck

**\*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.)*

**Words can be found on the screens or in  
front of Hymn book.**

## *Season of Advent*

Next week our Season of Advent begins. We will begin the season with the celebration of Communion. We hope you will join us as we prepare for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Each week we will light another candle signifying Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

“May we be in this world, a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.”

-Pope Francis

## *News!!!!*

The church has applied for an accessibility grant that has been approved! We will receive approximately \$22 725 for improvements for automatic door openers as well as improvements to the washrooms. More details to come!

**Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

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[https://www.freepik.com/free-ai-image/back-view-jesus-nature\\_64311300.htm#fromView=search&term=children+with+sheep&page=1&position=7&track=ais\\_ai\\_generated&regularType=ai](https://www.freepik.com/free-ai-image/back-view-jesus-nature_64311300.htm#fromView=search&term=children+with+sheep&page=1&position=7&track=ais_ai_generated&regularType=ai)