



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

10:30 am

Earth Sunday

Welcome!

*“Newcastle United Church's ministry is to live out God's love through strengthening our faith, by encouraging kindness and hospitality, and learning to live out the presence of Christ in our lives.”*

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## ***Gathering With God And One Another***

***\*Indicates for congregation to stand in body or in spirit.***

### **Welcome**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

**As we gather for worship in this place, we acknowledge that Newcastle United Church is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations.**

**We recognize that we need to hear the truth so that we can reconcile with our past, create new relationships and move forward together, making space for understanding and healing for all.**

### **Announcements**

### **Lighting The Christ Candle**

**Moment of Preparation: “For the Beauty of the Earth”** Composed by Conrad Kocher, Arranged by Victor Labenske  
***Silence is kept.***

### **Call To Worship:**

**One: God creates this earth.**

**All: And with it the wonderful possibilities of being and relating.**

One: God tends this earth.

**All: Our creator constantly mends the broken and draws the estranged back together.**

One: God enlivens this earth.

**All: The Spirit guides all things toward harmony with our maker.**

One: Let us be grateful for God's loving action.

**All: Let us come together in worship, drawn to the one who is both our source and our home.**

**\*Hymn: MV 27 "Creator God You Gave Us Life"**

**1 Creator God you gave us life,  
your image formed within our souls,  
yet through the mist of time and space,  
we search for that which makes us whole.**

**Refrain:**

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,  
and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page,  
we comprehend your mystery.**

**2 In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,  
we see your great diversity,  
yet greater still we see your love,  
expressed in our humanity.      Refrain**

**3 When with our hearts, our hands our minds,  
we share our gifts with all the world,  
our spirits soar beyond the veil,  
to touch the very face of God. Refrain**

**Opening Prayer:**

**All: God of all: we thank you for the many ways that are before us to learn and to grow. We give thanks for the beauty and wonder of the created world, for the rich stories of scripture, for the varied experiences of our daily lives, for our innate curiosity and our capacity to draw insights. As we worship, search our hearts, heal our spirits, and renew our life. May we always and forever be your Easter people. Amen.**

**A Time for Healing and Renewal:**

**All: God of the suffering earth: forgive us for not caring for the world that has been entrusted to us as stewards. For not being mindful of the animals and birds with which we share that world. Forgive us for closing our eyes to human poverty and hardship. For shutting our ears to voices that recall the balance and the wisdom of the land. Forgive us for our failure to honour your world. For squandering the legacy of the generations that will come after us. Turn us back to your ways. Create in**

**us hearts that are filled with love of the earth. Remind us of our vocations as caretakers of this planet. Give us the courage to begin the work that is even now before us. Align our lives with you and with creation, so that we might walk humbly with you, now in this time of silence, and always.**  
*(Silence.)*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Promise of God's Healing Love:**

One: We know that God never gives up on us. So, we can boldly declare that we are free from our past, that we are forgiven for our wrongs. And we now join with the earth and with one other:

**All: to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air;**

One: to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures;

**All: to recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, and to think of the children now and the children to come.**

One: We join together, as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery, for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

**All: Praise be to our God, who restores us and all of creation. May we increasingly live lives that reflect God's loving and compassionate ways.**

**\*Sung Response: VU 958  
“Halle, Halle, Halle”**

**sung twice**

## **Conversation Time**

**\*Hymn: VU 296 “This Is God’s Wondrous World”**

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
    all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
    of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.**
  
- 2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
    the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
    in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.**

**3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

***Listening For God's Word***

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 8 (VU p. 732)**

**Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:1-31; Genesis 2:4-9**

**Response:**

**One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

**All: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.**

**Ministry of Music: "God Painted a Picture"**

**Composed by Florence Tarr & Peter De Rose**

**Message: "Creature and Creator"**

**\*Hymn: VU 307 "Touch the Earth Lightly"**

**1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

- 2 We who endanger, who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**
- 3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**
- 4 God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

***Responding To God's Word***

**Minute for Mission**

**Invitation to The Offering**

**\*Offertory Hymn: VU 179                      chorus, v. 2, chorus  
"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks"**

**Hallelujah hallelujah.**

**Give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah,  
hallelujah!**

**Give praise to God's name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
Jesus has died and is risen.**

**Hallelujah hallelujah.**

**Give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah,  
hallelujah!**

**Give praise to God's name.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

***Going Into The World***

**\*Hymn: VU 297 "All Praise to You"**

**1 All praise to you, O God of all creation:  
you made the world, and it is yours alone.  
The planet earth you spun in its location  
amid the stars adorning heaven's dome.  
We lease the earth but for a life's duration,  
yet for this life it is our cherished home.**

**2 With wondrous grace you clothed the earth in  
splendour;  
with teeming life you filled the sea and land.  
Instil in us a sense of awe and wonder  
when we behold the bounty of your hand.  
Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder,  
we hear the voice our faith can understand.**

**3 To tend the earth is our entrusted duty,  
for earth is ours to use and not abuse.  
O gracious God, true source of all resources,  
forgive our greed that wields destruction's sword.  
Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards  
while earth gives glory to creation's Lord.**

**\*Commissioning & Benediction**

One: This we know: the earth does not belong to us.

**All: We belong to the earth.**

One: This we know: all things are connected.

**All: We are connected like the blood that unites one family.**

One: This we know: we did not weave the web of life.

**All: We are merely a strand in that web.**

One: Let us return to our lives, giving thanks for the gift of creation.

**All: Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.**

**\*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: “It's a Song of Praise to the Maker”**

Music: Ron Klusmeier    Words: Ruth Duck

## *Announcements*

Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are Doris Liscombe and Gail Empey.

Today's Reader is Diane Winchester.

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study continues this week on Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am. All Welcome.



### **Coffee Time**

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

## **Dates at a Glance.....**

April 19 <sup>th</sup> , at 7 pm	Acoustic Blvd Concert
April 21 <sup>st</sup> , at 7 pm	Official Board Meeting
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , at 4 pm	Property Meeting
April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 10 am-2 pm	Kids' Clothing Swap
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , at 10 am	Crafters
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 4:30 pm	Pulled Pork Dinner

### **Spring Concert ~ Acoustic Blvd**

The Stewards invite you TODAY!!, at 7:00 p.m. The evening will feature the band Acoustic Blvd who perform classic acoustic rock songs from the 60's and 70's to present day. There will be complimentary refreshments and a silent auction for homemade pies during the intermission! Tickets are \$20 and are available after church or at the door. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

### **Parking**

Folks are arriving at church and finding the parking lot full. This is a good problem to have! Being a little more conscious of our parking will fit more cars in and will be less frustrating for those who are not able to arrive at church early. Thank you for your consideration!

## **Kids' Clothing Swap ~ seeking donations**

We are hosting a kids' clothing swap on Saturday, April 25th from 10 am to 2 pm in the church hall. We are seeking donations of infant and kids' clothing (sizes 0 to 3 months to 14-16). We ask that clothing be donated in clear bags or boxes and that the clothing be clean, free of rips and stains, with working zippers. It would be a great help if your bag/box is labelled with the clothing size. The official drop-off for clothing donations is Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. An alternate drop-off time can be arranged by calling the church office. Megan Snoxall is willing to pick-up donations as well

## **Pulled Pork Dinner**

Please mark your calendar for Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Stewards will be hosting a pulled pork dinner complete with brown beans, coleslaw and a sundae for dessert. The cost is \$15, cash at the door. The dinner goes from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., doors open at 4:15 p.m.

## **Earth Week**

Today marks the beginning of Earth Week. For ideas on how to make the most of this week and to engage with others who are seeking to do their best to live with respect in creation check out:

<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca>

## **Big Drum Social**

Celebrate Indigenous culture and embrace the spirit of the big drum. One and all are invited to a big drum social happening Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at 155 Arena Street in Oshawa. This is a free event run by the Indigenous team at the Durham Community Health Centre. Connect with community and enhance your wellbeing through music, dance, art and traditional indigenous knowledge. All are welcome, no registration required. To learn more, please contact James Costello: at [jcostello@durhamchc.ca](mailto:jcostello@durhamchc.ca)  
<https://www.durhamchc.ca/our-services/equity-based-programs/indigenous-health-wellness/>

## **Thank You to our Volunteers.**

The Moderator and The United Church of Canada say a big thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that guide the United Church nationally, and to the countless volunteers in communities across the country. By sharing your time, skills, empathy, energy, and creativity you strengthen our communities and our United Church.

During National Volunteer Week, April 19 to 25, 2026, we recognize every volunteer and celebrate their contribution to the United Church. Thank you for all that you do! Watch and share this video message from Moderator Kimberly Heath!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5WrhvJrp5Q>

## Crafters

The crafters are looking for small jars. 250 ml (half pint) and 500 ml (pint) size--with or without lids. We are also looking for any small amounts of leftover metal or rust paint. Spray can or otherwise. Our next meeting is Friday, May 1st at 10:30 a.m. Thank you, Marion.

*Stewardship Second*

*April 19, Third Sunday of Easter*

*With peace rooted in our own spirits, we can bloom and share ourselves with others.*

We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and



e-transfer at [nucetransfer@gmail.com](mailto:nucetransfer@gmail.com) using the answer "Newcastle". You can also send via [Canadahelps.org](http://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](mailto:office@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

***Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.***

**Ministry in our church is shared between the congregation and staff.**

***Minister:*** Rev. Elaine Hall

Office hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to noon  
(church)905-987-4515 (home)905-985-1633  
[minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

***Church Administrator:*** Lynne Jefferson

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday,  
10:30 am - 4:30 pm.  
905-987-4515

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

***Church Organist/ Choir Director:***

Donna Barber

Choir practice: Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.

***Book the Hall***

905-987-4515

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