



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 31, 2023

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

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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**

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

**Prelude (A centering time) “Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

Words & Music by Graham Kendrick

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Epiphany is the season of light, when the days become longer, the sun becomes brighter, pushing the darkness back. We are reminded when Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World,' pushing the darkness back and becomes a lamp showing us the way. May Christ's light shine brightly within us, through us, and around us. Amen

<https://www.stpaulsscarborough.org/post/first-sunday-of-epiphany>

**Call To Worship**

**L:** A new day has dawned and a new year is just about to begin.

**A;** **O Lord, prepare us, and strengthen us for the coming of a new year.**

L: As we wait for the dawning of this new year

**A: Let our hopes and dreams of the future be encouraged by your Living Spirit.**

L: With excitement and desire for changes in our lives this year,

**A: Creator remind us that You are willing to lead us through each one of those days with promise and love.**

L: God, as we wait for the start of the New Year with uncertainty, let your wisdom and love remind us that you will journey with us every day in 2024

**A: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer (in Unison)**

**Gracious One, many of us have made New Year's resolutions and promises. Give us the strength to carry through with them so that they don't become idle words. Fill us with Your Spirit of hope, confidence and positivity that these promises will transform us to be the people we want to be.**

**Creator, remind us of our values and deepest desires to live in your loving presence. Help us to put aside our anxiety about the future and about our past failures, to live fully accepted in Your peace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

<https://christianstt.com/welcoming-new-year-prayer/> modified by Rev. B. Ransom

**\*Hymn: “Come In, Come In And Sit Down”**

**VU 395**

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

**Scripture Readings:**

**Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

***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 “A Light Is Gleaming”**

**VU 82**

**Reflection: “What Have You Decided?”**

**Ministry of Music: “This Little Light of Mine”**

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

**Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Response “In The Bleak Midwinter” v. 3**

**VU 55**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**if I were a wise man, I would do my part;**

**yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

## **Dedication Of The Offering**

### **Prayers of the People**

**\*Closing Hymn: “While Shepherds Watched  
Their Flocks”** **VU 75**

### ***\*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.**



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

Greeters this morning are Heather Snoxall and Elanie Spicer

Bible Reader this morning is Anne Harrison

Bible Study will resume this week on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

### **Offering Envelopes**

There has been a delay in getting offering envelopes for 2024. Please feel free to use any unused envelopes from 2023 in the mean while. Any other questions, see Marlene.

### **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Church**  
ANNIVERSARY

A committee has been formed to plan events for next year, leading up to our 200th Anniversary on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Ken Crichton at 905-987-4162.

## Faith in Motion

The Faith in Motion team would like to wish all families a wonderful and restful break. Faith in Motion will resume on January 7th.

## Announcements

Please let Lynne know of any announcements for the bulletins, by Thursday mornings. Bulletins are printed in the afternoons. Call the office or [office@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@newcastleunitedchurch.org) Regular office hours will start back up this week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 2 pm.

**We are now live streaming.** Please look for us on our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpPUnPABHPIOJzAJ7uXvHoA>.

**Or go to YouTube and Search:  
Newcastle United Church**

**Service will begin streaming at 10:30**



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