



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 14th, 2025,

10:30 am

“Knowing Joy”

White Gift Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent

“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.”

Gathering With God And One Another

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

Please keep your White Gift with you in your pew.

The White Gifts will be brought forward as a part of the service

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement ~ Jacob

As we gather in worship this morning, we acknowledge that we do so within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations. We offer our respect and gratitude to those who have cared for and continue to care the land, and we commit ourselves to building a future based upon true reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

~ Henry and Danielle

Sung Response: VU 7 “Hope Is a Star” v. 3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

Telling the world that the Saviour is born.

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

Call To Worship:

One: The joy of following Jesus is all around us!

All: Yes, that joy is known in warm greetings, in beautiful music, in being a community together, whether we are in-person or on-line.

One: In this time of stress and expectations, may we be open to the true wonder of what this season offers.

All: We are ready to seek God's peace, to know God's joy, and to live in God's love.

***Hymn: VU 64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vv. 1-4**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,**

**where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Opening Prayer: (led by Matthew)

**All: Dear God, you surprised the world that first
Christmas when you came as a little child.
Surprise us again today with your presence. In a
day when people can orbit the earth, orbit our
lives. In a day when we carry a phone everywhere,
inspire us to carry you everywhere in our hearts. In
a day when the internet can connect us with
people all over the world, help us to truly connect
with ourselves, our neighbours and with you. We
humbly ask for faith in the face of our fears, joy in
the everyday and depth for our souls. Bless us in
our time of worship today as we take one step
further on our advent journey. Amen.**

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Sunday December 14th, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Sue Bell and Gail Empey.

Today's Reader is Donna Scott.

Bible Study is Wednesday at 10 am.

The Sanctuary will be open for Quiet Reflection
Wednesday, from 11 am to 1 pm.



Coffee Time

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

White Gift Sunday

White Gift Sunday is today! Please hold your gifts until after Offering has been taken up. You will be directed to bring gifts forward. Please raise your hand if you would like a Faith in Motion youth to come collect your gift for the front.

Cheese Orders

Cheese orders are Due back TODAY, December 14th!!
Leave forms in the office with Lynne.

Dates at a Glance.....

December 24 th , 7 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January 13 th , 2026	Official Board Meeting

Moderator's Advent Message

In her Advent Message, the Right Rev. Kimberley Heath, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, offers a reflection that makes space for all our feelings—the joy, the grief, the hope, and the weariness. <https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-advent-message-2025>

Mission and Service Bows

Our annual Mission and Service Bow campaign has begun. Donations to the M and S Fund will be designated by coloured bows which will be placed on our Christmas tree each week until Christmas. Bows may be purchased in denominations as follows: \$25-49, red; \$50-\$75, green; \$75-\$100, silver; and \$100+ is gold. However, any amount is most welcome! “**Gifts with Vision**” catalogues are in the Narthex. These gifts are an additional way to support the work of The United Church of Canada’s Mission and Service Partners. See Lynne or place donation in offering plate. <https://united-church.ca/donate>

By Phone- Local: 416-231-5931 ext. 2738
Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738

Flowers For Advent

If you are interested in having flowers placed in the sanctuary for Advent Season, please see Lynne in the office. She can take names of individuals the flowers

are for and payment, and coordinate with Wendy to have the flowers ordered. Flowers can be ‘in memory of’ or in ‘honour of’.

Quiet Reflection in the Sanctuary this Advent

In addition to Bible Study on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, the sanctuary will be heated and open for silent reflection during the first three Wednesdays in December (December 3rd, 10th and 17th) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you wish, a guided art meditation on the characters of the nativity will be available to use during this time.

Food Safety Course

Did you miss the safe-food handling course that happened this past fall? The course is being offered Saturday, January 10th from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the church. The course is offered via video, which we will watch together in the hall. In order to be certified, an exam must be taken the following week by booking a time slot at the church in order to complete the exam. Certification is good for 5 years. Our UCW has generously offered to pay for the cost of the training and certification. If participants wish to pay for the course themselves, they are invited to make a donation to the UCW. The cost of the course and certification is \$30. Please register for the course on the sign-up sheet posted in the hall.

Stewardship Second.....

December 14: Third Sunday in Advent

Rejoice in being able to use your gifts to do God's work.

Advent: Preparing for the birth of Jesus

The custom of lighting candles on a decorated wreath comes to us from the Lutheran Church in Scandinavia. Like the Christmas tree, the Advent wreath has its origins in pre-Christian festivals of light which celebrated the winter solstice. In recent years it has been used in churches and homes as a reminder of our time of preparation for the coming of Christ, into our hearts and into our world. The wreath is a circle, symbolizing the eternity of God. God has no beginning or end. The evergreen boughs are a symbol of eternal life and a reminder of the steady, unchanging love of God. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The white candle in the center is the Christ candle.

The appropriate candles can be lit during the main meal in your family's day. Choose a meal once a week where the following words might be read by an adult or older child.

To be read some time during the week of December 14th

One: In this Advent season we wait in hope. *(Light one purple candle.)* We remember our longing for God to be with us and to give us peace. *(Light second purple candle.)*

Two: Today, we light a third candle for joy. *(Light pink candle.)* This candle reminds us that God wants us to help us to find joy in our lives.

One: This candle is a symbol of the joy that comes when God is with us.

Assurance of God's Healing Love:

(led by Joshua)

One: We are hurrying and scurrying these days.

All: But no matter what, God goes with us.

One: God brings us peace.

All: God will settle us down. God will point us to Jesus.

One: God will bring us to the stable to worship and adore.

All: God will bless us with forgiveness and will heal us with love.

Ministry of Music: "The First Noel"

~ Piano duet, Donna Barber & Hope Pascoe

17th Century English Carol Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Conversation Time

Ministry of Music: "There is Joy In My Heart"

Besig & Price

Listening For God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:9-11

(read by Bennett)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:9-15

(read by Ben)

Response:

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

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

***Hymn: VU 69 "Away in a Manger"**

vv. 1-3

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he
lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Skit: "Away from the Manger"

by Elizabeth M. Topp, adapted by Elaine Hall

Hymn: VU 74 "What Child Is This"

vv. 1-3

**1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**REFRAIN This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. REFRAIN**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. REFRAIN**

Responding To God's Word

Invitation to The Offering

Offering monies will first be collected, then you will be invited to bring forward your White Gift. Faith In Motion youth will be glad to bring your gift forward, if you prefer.

***Offertory Hymn: VU 55 "In the Bleak Midwinter" v.4
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People ~ Grace

Going Into The World

***Hymn: VU 48 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vv. 1,3**

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. REFRAIN**

***Commissioning & Benediction**

***Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

Lyrics can be found on the inside cover of Voices United or on the screens.

Postlude: "Joy to the World"

Composed by George F. Handel Arranged by Catherine Rollin

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Narrator: Elaine Hall

Lead Shepherd: Bennett

Shepherds: Joshua, Matthew

Wise Man One: Oliver

Wise Man Two: Henry

Stars: Selena, Isabel and
Newcastle United Church Choir

Innkeeper's Wife: Grace

Angel One: Ben

Angel Two: Jacob

Older Barn Animals: Bennett, Jacob

Younger Barn Animals: Joshua,
Matthew, Ben