



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 21st, 2025,

10:30 am

“Living Love”

The Fourth 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.*

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

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

Moment of Preparation: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Arranged by Catherine Rollin

(Silence is kept)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sung Response: VU 7 “Hope Is a Star” v. 4

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
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: Christ has come; Christ will come again!

All: We wait with joy for the coming of Jesus into our lives.

One: The message of hope, peace, joy, and love is ours this Advent season.

All: We celebrate the Good News at this holy time.

One: Come and worship!

***Hymn: VU 36 "Angels From The Realms of Glory**

vv. 1-4

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Opening Prayer:

All: Holy and wondrous God, we are often surprised by the way you show your love. When we expect reproach, you offer us grace. When we look for armies and kings and people with power to save us, you offer a baby born into a poor family in a forgotten corner of the world. Our way affirms power and might. Your way affirms the worth of every man, woman and child on this earth. Be with us today as we remember the courage of Mary who said yes to you. Be with us today as we remember the dedication of Joseph who raised your son. Be with us as we give thanks for Jesus, your gift of love. Be with us and remind us that we are called to be your gifts of love for the world. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Assurance of God's Healing Love:

One: The Christmas story is not just a pretty tale.

All: Through the gift of grace, we remember the true story of Christmas.

One: Christmas is the revelation of God's love that changes the world forever.

All: It is a love that changes our own hearts and minds forever!

Violin Trio ~ Oliver, Gwen and Beatrice

Conversation Time

Announcements

Sunday December 21st, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Judy and Myno Vandyke.

Today's Announcements Reader is Nathan Blesse.

Bible Study is on hiatus until the new year.

Coffee Time

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



Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex. Please make sure to pick up yours as well as for those who may not always be able to make it to the church. There are some envelopes for those on PAR.

Cheese Orders

Please make sure you pick up your cheese orders today!!

Holiday Office Hours

Lynne will be in the office on Tuesday December 23rd and 30th, from 10:30 am to 4 pm. Lynne will be available to accept any year end gifts for the church. Elaine will be away Sunday December 28th. Lynn Liddell will be our guest preacher.

Dates at a Glance.....

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| December 24 th , 7 pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| January 6 th , 2026 11:30 am | Session Meeting |
| January 7 th , 2026 12 noon | Stewards Meeting |
| January 13 th , 2026, 7 pm | Official Board Meeting |

Flowers For Advent

If you are interested in having flowers placed in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, 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’. **Today is the last day for requests.**

Social Media Pictures

We are taking a few pictures in church these days so that we can add some photos of church happenings to the church website and social media channels. When a photo is included, no names will be published. If you would prefer not to be included in any photos on the website, Facebook or Instagram, please inform the church office. Thank you!

Food Safety Course

Did you miss the fall safe-food handling course? The course is being offered Saturday, January 10th from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the church. It 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 to complete the exam. Certification is good for 5

years. Our UCW has generously offered to pay for 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 is \$30. Please register for the course on the sign-up sheet posted in the hall.

Advent: Preparing for the birth of Jesus

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 sometime during the week of December 21st

One: We light again the first three candles. (*Light first three candles, 2 purple, 1 pink.*) We remember our longing for God to be with us, to give us peace, and to bring us joy.

Two: Today, we light a fourth candle and our circle is complete. (*Light last purple candle.*)

One: This candle is a symbol of God's love that was born anew in baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

Two: It is a symbol of God's love that is alive in us each day, too.

Stewardship Second

December 21: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Why do you give? God gives because God loves the world so much. How does your giving expand love?



**Don and Gwen
Holmes**

In Memory of Jean and Jack Holmes

**John and Jo-Ann
Smithson**

In Memory of Dave and Dorothy Bowler

**Lynne, Richard and
Family**

**In Memory of our Fathers, Don Pringle
and Frank Jefferson**

**Love from Heather
and Francis**

In Memory of Frank, Eva, & John Hoar

**Gary and Carole
Brunton**

**In Memory of Grandson Travis,
Mom & Dad Brunton
Mom & Dad Rowe**

Love from Warren

In memory of Marg Tait



***Hymn: VU 75 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"**

vv. 1-6

**1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.**

**3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'**

**5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.'**

Listening For God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Poem: Christmas Remembered
~ written and read by Pat Lake

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

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: "What a Wonderful World" Composed by Bob Thiele & George David Weiss; Christmas lyrics - author unknown

Message: "What About Joseph?"

*Hymn: VU 76 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

vv. 1-5

**1 See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.**

**REFRAIN Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**2 Lo, within a manger lies
God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim. REFRAIN**

**3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep? REFRAIN**

**4 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth.' REFRAIN**

**5 Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this! REFRAIN**

Responding To God's Word

Minute for Mission

Invitation to The Offering

***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

Going Into The World

***Closing Hymn: VU 38 "Angels We Have Heard On High" vv. 1-4**
**1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Commissioning & Benediction**

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

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

Postlude: "Ukrainian Bell Carol" Arranged by Phillip Keveren