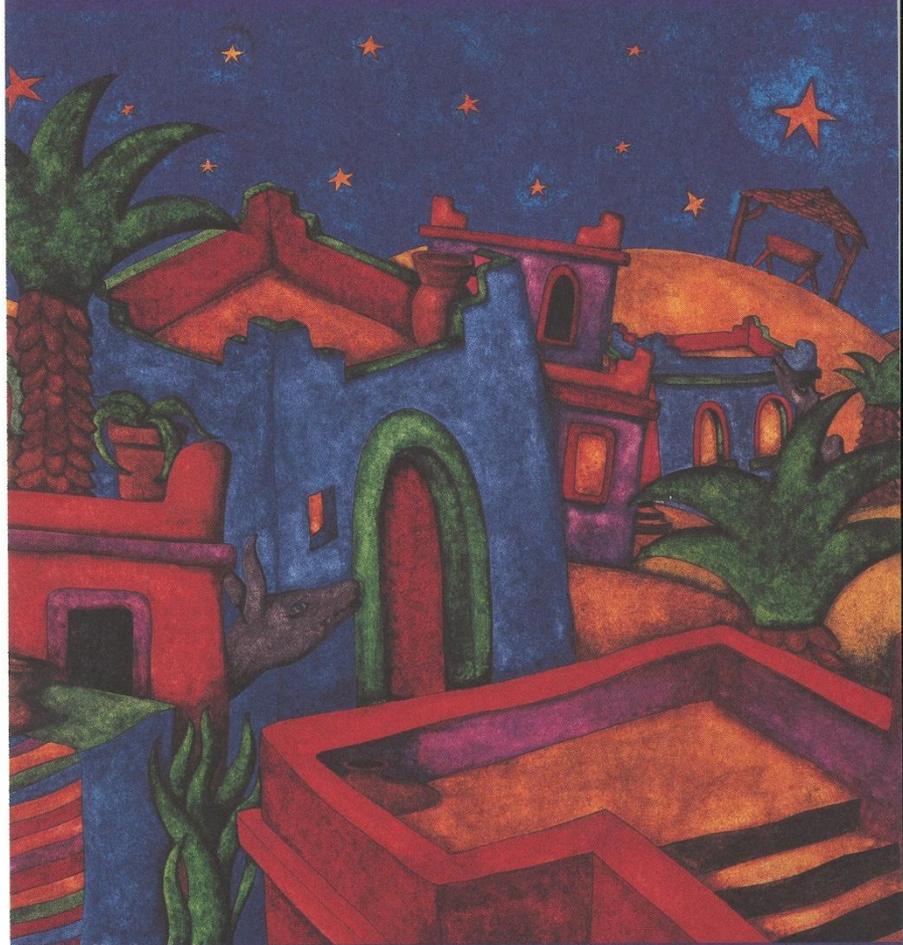


O holy Child of Bethlehem



descend to us, we pray

NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

7:00 pm

WE GATHER ON A HOLY NIGHT

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

Prelude

Welcome

Poem: “The Magic of Christmas”

~ written and read by Pat Lake

Ministry of Music: “What Child Is This?”

Call To Worship:

One: The angels’ song rings loud and clear.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

One: For into our shadowed world

All: a holy light is shining.

One: In a stable in Bethlehem,

All: a child is born to us.

One: He brings us the light of hope for our future,

All: and he shall be called Emmanuel, God-with-us.

One: Let us worship our God, who comes among us
this night.

***Hymn:** VU 60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”(vv. 1, 3, 5)

- O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;**

refrain:

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R**

**5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: R**

Opening Prayer:

All: O God of Christmas night, O Christ of the Christmas story: we have been busy, but now we pause to listen, to hear, to worship. Settle us into this holy moment. Ground us in your word of life. Let the story reveal to us its truth. Free us by your Spirit, so that, like the angels, we may lift our voices in song. Touch us by your Spirit, so that, like the shepherds, we may come with haste to meet you. Renew us by your Spirit, so that, like the wise ones, we may take leave of our everyday lives and follow you. In every thing, teach us about Christ, so that we may love our neighbours and all whom we meet. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Regney & Shain

~ soloists Karen Nichol & Wendy Thompson

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: We now approach the manger, our heads bowed in adoration.

All: We peer in and we see the face of God looking back at us.

One: This is the moment we have been waiting for. This is the moment we have been preparing for.

All: Jesus is born in our midst tonight, and for all time!

The Christ Candle is lit.

One: We have lit the Christ candle knowing that God's promise has been fulfilled.

All: We lit the Christ candle knowing that God is with us now and forever.

One: Jesus is born this night.

All: Into the darkness a light has shone.

One: Our Saviour is born!

All: We turn to Christ, born in a stable and now born in our hearts.

Ministry of Music: "O Holy Night"

Adam

WE SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

~ read by Myno VanDyke

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Ministry of Music: "Born Tonight in Bethlehem"

Price & Besig

Story: "Mary's Treasure Box"

***Hymn: VU 46 “Gentle Mary Laid her Child”**

- 1. Gentle Mary laid her child
lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled,
to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place
can he be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race
who have found his favour.**
- 2. Angels sang about his birth;
wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth,
glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night,
all the hills were ringing.**
- 3. Gentle Mary laid her child
lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled,
but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth,
beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth,
hail the King of glory!**

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GIFT AT CHRISTMAS

Invitation to the Offering

***Offertory Hymn: VU 55 “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

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 and the Lord's Prayer

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***Hymn:** VU 67 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

(For safety, please hold your lit candle upright and steady, while the person next to you lights their candle off of your lit candle.

Please be cautious with your open flame and take care of your neighbour.)

- 1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.**
- 3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

WE GO OUT IN CELEBRATION

***Commissioning & Benediction**

***Closing Hymn:** VU 59 "Joy to the World"

1. **Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

2. **Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

4. **He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Postlude

A Prayer for Christmas Morning

Good morning, God! Happy birthday, Jesus! Thank you for the happiness and excitement of this day. Jesus is such a wonderful gift to us, that we are giving gifts to one another. Be with us today in our celebrating, and may we welcome Jesus and his ways into our lives now and always. Amen. (Sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus".)



*The poinsettias gracing the sanctuary this evening
are placed in loving memory of:*

Dave & Dorothy Bowler
grandson Travis and
Mom & Dad Brunton, Mom & Dad Rowe
Frank, Eva and Joan Hoar
Jean & Jack Holmes
Frank Jefferson, Don Pringle
Marg Tait

You are warmly invited to join us on
Sunday mornings at 10:30 am

Children's program during worship

Social time after church

Bible Study Wednesdays 10:00 am
starting on January 7th

All welcome!

www.newcastleunitedchurch.org

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. As people with one creator, all made in the image of God, and who are called to be loving neighbours, let us commit to the responsibility of reconciliation and the work of increasing awareness and understanding of our shared history. Let us recognize and acknowledge the past and work towards a shared future as friends and allies.