



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

February 18th, 2024

10:30 am

First Sunday Of Lent

Black History Month

**“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can
only be human together.”**

– Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu

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

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) "O Perfect Love"

(arranged by Phillip Keveren)

Lighting the Christ Candle

We Light the Christ Candle as a symbol of our trust in Jesus as we journey towards the cross this Lenten season. Let the Light of Christ give us the courage to find the ways toward reconciliation and forgiveness so that the healing light of wholeness can restore harmony and unity in all matters of living.

****Call To Worship***

L: We gather in Christ's name.

A: **On this first Sunday of Lent, we come to prepare ourselves for the journey to the Cross with Christ**

L: Throughout this Lenten season we will be encouraged to acknowledge our need for repentance, mercy and forgiveness as proclaimed in the gospel.

A: We come acknowledging that we are not alone on this journey of self-examination and penitence, prayer and fasting, works of love and meditating on the Word of God.

L: The journey has begun. Do not turn away or be afraid for the One who withstood the temptations in the wilderness will be our guide and mentor.

A: We worship in the name of the One called Jesus.

Extinguishing the First Candle of Lent

Week One: Resistance

L: There are many temptations we face in our lives together. We face the temptation of putting our wants above another's needs. We face the temptation of ignoring problems such as hunger, poverty, war, and disease, with the false hope that they will go away without our intervention. We face the temptations of wealth and consumerism. We face many temptations that lead us to stray away from the path of faith.

We extinguish this candle as a symbol of the temptations that lead us and the world astray.

Let us pray

A: Creator, help us to keep our feet moving, our hands outstretched, and our hearts open to you. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, keep us from temptation and help us to do Your work in your world. Amen.

[\(http://www.rev-o-lution.org/2012/02/03/lent-easter-worship-resources/](http://www.rev-o-lution.org/2012/02/03/lent-easter-worship-resources/) modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

***Hymn: “O God, How We Have Wandered” VU
112**

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

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament (Hebrew Text) Genesis 9:8-17

New Testament Mark 1:9-15

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 “Deep In Our Hearts” vv. 1-3 MV 154**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts, there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**

Conversation Time

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: May the God of Lent be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: People of God, open your hearts.

**A: We open them to the One who calls us
'Beloved.'**

L: Beloved of God, give thanks and praise to the One who loves you forever.

**A: We sing our hymns of joy to the One who
leads us into new beginnings**

L: Our hearts overflow with your love, Covenant Keeper.

When there was no time as we know it,
you crafted day and night,
so we could wait for you in every moment,
tasting the savory goodness of grace.

You imagined those moments
of gathering us to your side
to teach us all the wonder of your ways,
but we often turned our ears towards
the whispered invitations of the Tempter,
running off to play in the wilderness
with rebellion and death as our guides.

You recalled the promises you had made
to Noah, to Sarah, to Joseph, and to Hannah,
and so sent the prophets to remind us
of the good gift of your covenant
and to point out the ways to your heart.

When we continued to ignore their words,
you sent Jesus to be with us,
to set us free from the imprisonment

we had created for ourselves.

So, we lift our voices with those who waited patiently, and with those who trust your covenantal promises, joining the choirs of heaven and earth, who forever sing of your hope and love:

A: Holy, holy, holy are you, Everlasting God of grace.

Every living creature in heaven and earth sing your praises

Blessed is He who sits as your right hand of mercy.

Blessed is He who comes in your Name.

L: Faithful and holy are you, Creator of all, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Steadfast Love and Hope.

When he could have stayed at your side during the days of our rebellion and pride, he came to be our friend and guide.

When he could have feasted on your power, in those days of glory with you,

he came to prepare a Table for us where our hardened hearts might be softened, and our broken lives might be made whole.

When he could have the angels waiting on him, he came to serve us your forgiveness and grace, enduring death on the cross so we could have life forever.

As we begin once more our Lenten journey, we seek to follow faithfully, remembering the life, the death, the resurrection of Jesus.

We tell the story of that mystery we call faith:

**A: Christ died to set us free from sin;
Christ was raised to break the power of death;
Christ will come again, to bring the kingdom
as close to us as God's heart is to all of
creation.**

L: Pour out your Spirit of imagination
upon this bread, and this cup,
gifts of your good and wonderful creation.
As we are embraced at the Table
by the One who has prepared it for us,
may we open our hearts to welcome
our sisters and brothers.
As we have been set free by your love,
may we proclaim freedom to the prisoners
confined by fear and oppression;
as we are filled with the Bread of life,
may we never cease feeding
the hungry of our world;
as we are nurtured by compassion's cup,
may we go out into the wilderness around us,
to take the lost, the last, the least, the little
by the hand to walk together
into that kingdom prepared for all your children.

And when we are gathered around the Table
with your beloved children of every time and place,
our songs will join together as our tears of joy
mingle, singing your praises forever and ever to
you:
God of David and Rebecca, of Mary and Noah;
Jesus of the outcast and lonely;

Spirit of those who seek peace and reconciliation:
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen and Amen.

The Act of Remembrance

The Sharing of The Bread and Wine

(c) Thom M. Shuman, slightly modified by Rev. B Ransom

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion. Through these earth gifts you have united us with Christ and one another uniting us in Christ. Send us from your Table of Love with the power of your Spirit to proclaim your redeeming love to the world that continues to seek your love and healing compassion, in Your Name we pray.

***Closing Hymn: “Your Boundless Love To Me”
VU 631**

****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.

Words can be found on the screens or in front of Hymn book.

Announcements

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

Our greeters this morning are Don and Donna Scott

Biblos and Announcements Reader is Heather Snoxall

Bible study is on Wednesday mornings at 10 am.

Lenten Prayer Study Group

Starting this week and continuing through Lent we will be having a 5-week study on prayer. It will be on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm in the sanctuary, starting on February 21st, and ending on March 20th. The study will include discussions on "what is prayer?" and "how do we pray?" as well as opportunities to learn about and practice different types of prayer.

Office Hours

Quick reminder, Lynne will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-2:30. She can be reached at 905-987-4515 or office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Food Bank

Next is the last week of the month. We will be collecting for the foodbank. Food items as well as monetary donations are gratefully accepted.

200th Anniversary

In recognition of our upcoming 200th Anniversary, we will be publishing an updated Church Directory. We currently have the photographer booked for March 7th, 8th and 9th. Please see Ken or Jewel after the service to book a time.

Nut Allergies



Please be aware that we do have people in the congregation with severe nut allergies. Please make sure that nuts are not brought into the church in any form-nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, or as an ingredient in any cooking/baking items.

Coffee and Coffee Plus

This week, M&P are providing coffee after the service. Next week will be Coffee Plus after the service. We hope you will join us.

Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly

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