



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

January 7, 2024

10:30 am

*Happy New Year
Remembering Our Baptism*

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)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Epiphany is the season of light when the days become longer and the sun becomes brighter, pushing the darkness back. In Epiphany we are reminded that Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World'. He is a light for us, pushing the darkness back to show 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> modified by Rev. B

Ransom

Call To Worship

L: A New Beginning has appeared.

A: Through Jesus all things are made new.

L: Behold the Light of God shines brightly.

A: We reach out to embrace all that Christ desires for us.

L: Spirit of the Living God, Light of light and Hope, breathe your Holy presence into our faith once more,
A: as we re-affirm our commitment to you this day through our worship of praising you.

Opening Prayer

God of Hope and Light, in the midst of humanity's darkness your Light came amongst us in human flesh. This light shone through Jesus, setting people free from their darkness and their fears. We come remembering that this Light is to be shared with all of creation. Open our hearts, reminding us that we have become light and hope for others because of our faith in you, Jesus, the Light of all of creation. Prepare us to re-affirm our commitment to serve you by serving others in your Holy Name. AMEN.

***Hymn: "I am The Light Of The World"**

VU 87

Listening For The Spirit Of God Through The Word

Scripture Readings:

New Testament: Acts 19:1-7

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 “Unbounded Spirit, Breath of God”**

vv. 1-4

MV 155

- 1. Unbounded Spirit, breath of God,
refreshing water, cleansing flame,
we give allegiance, through your call,
to Christ, and to no other name.**

- 2. Receive and open for review
the work we do, the word we preach,
and school us, as we teach and learn,
in careful thought and truthful speech.**

- 3. Uncover all the hopeless ways
we run, resist, rebel, or hide.
Unwrap with love and bathe in light
our pain, our sadness, and our pride.**

- 4. Assemble, leaven, mix, and knead
our clashing norms, opposing views,
and bake a loaf of joy and peace
that hungry hearts will not refuse.**

Conversation Time

***Hymn “Unbounded Spirit, Breath of God”**

v. 5

MV 155

- 5. Inscribe on every growing skill,
on every action, every vow,
the living name of Jesus Christ,
beginning here, beginning now.**

Words: Brian Wren Music: Jane Best

Reflection: “What’s Your Connection?”

Remembering One’s Commitment

A Liturgy for Remembering Your Faith Commitment

L: Thus, I ask you these questions:

L: Do you desire to commit yourself anew in the Christian faith and family of God?

A: I do.

L: Do you believe and trust in God, who creates, guides and sustains all creation?

A: I do.

L: Do you believe that Jesus teaches and demonstrates love, and do you desire to follow on that path?

A: I do.

L: Will you be a faithful participant in this congregation, and through worship and service together seek to advance God’s purposes here and throughout the world?

A: I will, and I ask God to help me.”

L: Together let us say:

A: I accept God's gift and the cost of following Jesus in my daily life and work; And with the whole Church, I will proclaim, by word and action, God's mercy and love.

The baptismal service in *Worship the Lord: The Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America*. The wording has been changed by Rev. B Ransom for the purposes of the recommitment of faith. The vows have been adapted from the closing worship service at the 2014 Cardiff Assembly of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain.

***New United Church Creed**

VU 918

Ministry of Music: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Our Response To The Living God

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Response "In The Bleak
Midwinter" v. 3**

VU 55

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn: "I Have Called You By, Your
Name" vv. 1-4 MV 161**

**1 I have called you by your name, you are
mine;**

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

**2 I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

**3 I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**4 I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon

***Commissioning & Benediction**

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

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