



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

January 4th, 2026,

10:30 am

Epiphany Sunday

Welcome

“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

Lighting The Christ Candle

Moment of Preparation: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Traditional English Carol

Silence is kept.

Call To Worship:

One: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travellers long ago no longer leads the way,

All: the manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

One: We are not brought to our knees in awe as were those journeyers of old;

All: yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

One: And though we do not bear gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh,

All: we offer ourselves and what we have.

One: The story continues. The good news abounds.
There is a living Christ to discover and worship and
serve in this time and in this new year.

***Opening Hymn: VU 91 "The First Nowell" vv. 1-6**

**1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**REFRAIN Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. REFRAIN**

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. REFRAIN**

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. REFRAIN**

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. REFRAIN**

**6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. REFRAIN**

Opening Prayer:

All: Radiant God, light for all people and in all places: by the guidance of a star, you led the wise ones to worship the Christ child and to offer him their best gifts. By the light of faith, lead us to worship you and to offer you the gifts of our love and our lives. Guide us in your way, that we may find your peace and know your joy. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

All: In him is no darkness at all.

One: Ahead of us lies a future filled with hope.

All: We can walk in the light of God's grace.

Conversation Time

***Hymn: "We Three Kings of Orient"**

**We Three Kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.**

Announcements

Sunday January 4th, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are Don and Donna Scott.

Today's Reader is Joyce King.

Bible Study will start back up on January 7th, at 10 am.



Coffee Time

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

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, as well.

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 Lynne, in the office. Thank you!

Dates at a Glance....

January 6 th , 2026 11:30 am	Session Meeting
January 7 th , 2026 12 noon	Stewards Meeting
January 12 th , 2026 1 pm	UCW Meeting
January 13 th , 2026 7 pm	Official Board Meeting
January 25 th , 2026	Reports Due for AGM
February 22 nd , 2026 12:30 pm	Annual General Meeting

Church Office Hours

Rev. Elaine

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am to noon. Fridays she will be working from home. You can reach her via phone at the church, 905-987-4515, her home number or email on the back of the Announcements.

Lynne

Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10:30 am to 4 pm. You can reach her at the church number or email, on the back of the Announcements.

Announcements

Just a reminder about announcements. Please have announcements to Lynne by noon on Thursdays, to be printed in the bulletin. Please let Lynne know of any meetings you will be hosting in the church so she can keep up to date on the calendar.

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.

Choir Practice

Choir practice will start up again, on January 8th, at 3 pm. Everyone who loves to sing, is welcome to join in!

Moderator's Christmas Message

Setting a Place at the Table This Christmas.

Rev. Kimberly Heath, reflects on the surprising origin of the word "Bedlam" and how its meaning connects the original Nativity scene to the confusion of our modern world. <https://bit.ly/3LGTn6e>

Stewardship Second, January 4, New Year's Day

On this good day, at the celebration of a new year, let us resolve to be generous.



We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at nucetransfer@gmail.com using the answer “Newcastle”. You can also send via Canadahelps.org **You can scan our QR code to the left to**

donate. If you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Susan at 289-927-6297 or treasurer@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.

Ministry in our church is shared between the congregation and staff.

Minister: Rev. Elaine Hall

Office hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to noon
(church)905-987-4515 (home)905-985-1633
minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Administrator: Lynne Jefferson

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm.
905-987-4515
office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Organist/ Choir Director: Donna Barber
Choir practice: Thursday, 3:00 p.m.

Book the Hall

property@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Chorus:

**O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with Royal Beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King for ever,
Ceasing never
Over us all to reign. (Chorus)**

**Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising
All men raising,
Worship Him God on High. (Chorus)**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;—
Sorrowing, sighing,
Bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Chorus)**

**Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Allelujah, Allelujah:
Earth to heaven replies.(Chorus)**

Listening For God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Response:

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

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

Message: “Thanks?”

***Hymn:** VU 81 “As with Gladness Men of Old” vv. 1-5

- 1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.**
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.**
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**
- 4 Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last**

where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright
none shall need created light;
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.

Responding To God's Word

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 87 vv. 1-4
"I Am the Light of the World"

REFRAIN

**"I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: REFRAIN**

- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! REFRAIN**

- 3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! REFRAIN**

- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! 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 "Shine Jesus Shine"

Composed by Graham Kendrick