



Jesus and Nicodemus, 1899, by Henry Ossawa Tanner

NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

March 1st, 2026,

10:30 am

Second Sunday of Lent

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: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Composed by William J. Kirkpatrick Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Silence is kept.

Call To Worship:

One: Come and travel the road of faith.

All: We gather as God's people, to look inward for the sake of transformation and rebirth.

One: Come, let us open ourselves to God's call.

All: We gather as God's people, to look outward for the sake of our neighbour and our world.

One: Come, let us gather in worship.

All: To God be the glory and praise.

***Hymn: VU 333 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Opening Prayer:

All: God of the journey, trusting in your great love for us, we pray for confidence and courage as we move through this holy season. May we be like Nicodemus and feel safe to ask questions. May we

be like Jesus and trust in your purposes. As we worship you this day, O God, move around us and within us, so that together we might move forward in faith. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: God has called us. How will we, how will you, respond?

All: We will celebrate that God's love is for us! We will accept God's gift of forgiveness. We will live lives of compassion and service.

Conversation Time

***Hymn: VU 161 "I Have Called You by Your Name"**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Announcements

Sunday March 1st, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are Gwen Holmes and
Carol Weatherup.

Today's Reader is Gail Empey.

Bible Study

Bible Study continues this week on Wednesday from 10 am to 10:45 am. From 10:45 to 11:15 we will be piloting a new program that explores the wisdom that aging brings. All welcome!



Coffee Time

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



Reminder!!!

Clocks move ahead next Sunday at 2 am, March 8th. Make sure to move your clocks to be to church on time.

Chili Cook-Off!

Calling all chili enthusiasts! The Stewards are sponsoring a delicious chili supper on Monday, March 16th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To add to the fun, you will be invited to vote for your favourite chili! \$10 a bowl or 3 tasters for \$10. \$5 for kids 5-12. Kids 4 and under eat free. Garlic bread and a sundae for dessert are

also included. Cash at the door. The winner will be announced at 6:30 p.m.!

Dates at a Glance.....

March 6 th at 2 pm	World Day of Prayer Service
March 9 th at 4:30 pm	Crock Pot Dinner
March 11 th , at 7 pm	Session Meeting
March 13 th at 10 am	Stewards Meeting
March 16 th , at 4:30-6:30 pm	Chili Cook-Off
March 22 nd , after service	Lunch & Learn, Project 2035

World Day of Prayer

Our UCW is hosting a World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow. This year's service has been written by Christian women from Nigeria. All welcome.

Lent...a time to Reflect and Pray

Starting Wednesday, February 18th and for each Wednesday in Lent, the sanctuary will be heated and open for silent reflection from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A prayer labyrinth will also be laid out in the hall for those wishing to walk the labyrinth as a way of meditation and prayer.

Opportunities to Lend a Helping Hand

If you are not a "join a committee" sort of person, please consider volunteering for a small job that needs to be done around the church. Sign-up sheets are posted in the hall. Many thanks for all those who signed-up last week at the Annual Meeting. A key need at the moment are folks who wouldn't mind helping to prepare and

clean-up for our church's weekly social time. Training is provided and the commitment would be once every 6 weeks. Thank you!!

Lunch and Learn: Project 2035

One of the projects brought forward from our Visioning Team was Lunch and Learn sessions. Our first Lunch and Learn is set for Sunday, March 22nd after church in the hall. Our Congregational Life Team will provide a yummy lunch and then we will meet for about an hour to explore the data that the United Church of Canada is sharing around future church development. Don't worry it is not all numbers!! Come to be challenged and inspired.

Kitchen Conversations

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator is a series exploring faith, food, and the power of inviting one another to the table, hosted by United Church of Canada Moderator Kimberly Heath. Drawing inspiration and recipes from the United Church's Lenten devotional, *Bless Break Share*, we're breaking bread with guests from across the church throughout Lent, reflecting on how food can nourish both body and soul.

This week, King Julez/Julian Rose talks with the Moderator about their experience at the pro-Palestinian protest encampment at the University of Toronto.

Stewardship Second,

March 1, Second Sunday in Lent

Acts of generosity pull us towards dreams of a new relationship to God, to the earth, and to all others.

Things We Tell Ourselves –

Our National Church is offering a webinar opportunity as we journey into our next 10 years as a church. For further information, see

<https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=372>.

This series can be viewed from home but depending on interest, we might be able to do these as a group using the big screen in the church hall. If interested, speak to Brian Reid.

Women's Retreat

Radical Flourishing! Radical Joy! Cost is \$500 per person and a \$100 deposit is required on or before March 15th, 2026 to reserve your spot with final payment due on June 30th, 2026. Keynote speaker is The Very Rev. Carmen Lansdowne. More information and registration can be found on our website at <https://ecorcuccan.ca/event/radical-flourishing-radical-joy-womens-retreat/> and any questions, please contact Kathleen Whyte at 705-768-3555 or by email kwhyte53@gmail.com. Elmhurst's Resort, Keene, ON

Help support the United Church's work...

...work on equity, inclusion, and anti-racism! The United Church is currently seeking nominees for the Working Group on Addressing Church Legacies for People of African Descent; the Anti-Racism Common Table; and the Equity and Anti-Oppression Circle. Full details and nominations forms are available at <https://united-church.ca/opportunities>. These appointments will be from May 2026 to August 2028, with the possibility of renewal. Applications are due by March 17.

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.

Listening For God's Word

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 121 (VU p. 844)

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

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: "When the Wind of Winter Blows"

Music: Lori True Words: Ruth Duck

Message: "Birth, Wind and Fire"

***Hymn: VU 375 "Spirit of Gentleness" vv. 1-4**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.**

REFRAIN

**2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. REFRAIN**

**3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. REFRAIN**

**4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.
REFRAIN**

Responding To God's Word

Minute for Visioning

Invitation to The Offering

***Offertory Hymn: VU 540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"
Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

Going Into The World

***Hymn:** VU 625 "I Feel the Winds of God" vv. 1-3

1 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

3 If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

***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.**

Postlude "Trust and Obey"

Composed by Daniel B. Towner & John H. Sammis