



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

March 10, 2024

10:30 am

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) "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Composer: Conrad Kocher; arr. Victor Labenske

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: Holy One, in our lives and in the world, we bear too much mourning.

A: **We come seeking your presence, God. Make our hearts new and sustain us in your love.**

L: With setbacks and crushed expectations, we have known too much crying and frustration.

A: We crave your comfort, O God, to make our dreams new and refresh us in your love.

L: Despite our striving for success, our hoping for quick results, and even our prayers to be answered according to our desires, we often feel abandoned by you, Holy One, on our life's journey.

A: We need your healing, O God, to make our souls new and to strengthen us in your love.

L: Be with us, O God, and make us your people, a people of faith.

A: We lift up our eyes to refocus them upon Jesus who will wipe away our tears and renew us in your love.

L: Let our worship strengthen our faith in you, Sustainer of all that is. Amen.

(Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont. Modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

Extinguishing the Fourth Candle of Lent: Repentance

L: We have been born into a world of sin. We try to do the right thing, but at times we fail, and temptation seems to win. At other times, we seem to drown in our failures, believing nothing good can come from us. We forget that God has called us to repent, and that God remembers our sins no more.

We extinguish this candle as a symbol of our lack of trust in Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven, when we repent and turn back to God. Let us pray:

A: Loving God, help us to turn back to you when we stray. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, help us to repent from where we have gone wrong to truly know that you remember our sin no more. 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)

***Opening Hymn: “The Living God Be Praised”**

VU 255

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

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament

Numbers 21: 4-9

(Hebrew Scripture)

New Testament

Gospel of John 3:14-21

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 “When We Are Tested” vv. 1-3 MV 65**

**When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

Conversation Time

Hymn “When We Are Tested” v. 4 MV 65

**When we have struggled and searched through the
night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Reflection: “Snakes Galore”

Ministry of Music: “Softly Now”

Music: Linda Fletcher; Words: Anonymous

Our Response

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Hymn “We Give You But Your Own”
We give you but your own, VU 542
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers of the People

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

****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.**

Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly

905 922 8394

minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Contact the Church

905-987-4515

newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca

Contact Lynne in the Office

office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Book the Hall

property@newcastleunitedchurch.org

The sculpture of a Brazen Serpent of Moses Memorial Church, Nehushtan, is the serpentine cross that stands on the terrace of Mount Nebo was created by the Italian artist Giovanni Fantoni.

It recalls the bronze serpent on a pole which God told Moses to erect to protect his people from the poisonous snakes that God had sent as punishment. It was enough to look at the bronze serpent erected by prophet Moses in order to be healed and saved.