



## NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026,

10:30 am

Fourth 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 for worship in this place, we acknowledge that Newcastle United Church is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations. We recognize that we need to hear the truth so that we can reconcile with our past, create new relationships and move forward together, making space for understanding and healing for all.

## **Announcements**

### **Lighting The Christ Candle**

### **Moment of Preparation: “Open the Eyes of My Heart”**

Words & Music by Paul Baloche Arranged by Victor Labenske  
*Silence is kept.*

### **Call To Worship:**

One: God invites us to see the world through new eyes.

**All: Open our eyes, O God.**

One: Let us leave behind those things that keep us from experiencing the beauty of God’s world.

**All: Open our minds, O God.**

One: Let us drop those barriers that keep us from recognizing and receiving the caring and warmth of those around us.

**All: Open our hearts, O God.**

One: Come, let us worship God, who calls all of us to find new ways to live our lives.

**\*Hymn: VU 315**

**vv 1-4**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”**

**1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide  
thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may  
not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth  
and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

## **Opening Prayer:**

**All: O God, we know by your gospel story how Jesus met people in their hurt and their need. He turned their despair into hope, their sorrow into joy, their anxiety into peace, and their fear into an awareness of your presence. Speak to us throughout these days of Lent. We too need your healing hand, your inner strength, and the quiet confidence that we are not alone. We pray as we journey, through Jesus Christ, our companion and friend. Amen.**

## **A Time for Healing and Renewal**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Promise of God's Healing Love:**

One: God is the love that surrounds us.

**All: God is the grace that is given without hesitation.**

One: God is the healing that makes the earth whole.

**All: Give thanks to God; we are forgiven!**

### **Ministry of Music "He Turned the Water Into Wine"**

Words & Music by David Stearman

### **Conversation Time**

**\*Hymn: VU 570 "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands"**

# *Announcements*

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are Myno and Judy Van Dyke.

Today's Reader is Nate Blesse.

## **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 UCW.

## **Lent...a time to Reflect and Pray**

Starting Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Flowers For Easter**

If you are interested in having flowers placed in the sanctuary for Easter, please see Lynne in the office. She can take names of individuals the flowers are for and payment, and coordinate to have the flowers ordered. Flowers can be 'in memory of' or in 'honour of'.

## Dates at a Glance.....

March 16 <sup>th</sup> , at 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>TOMORROW!</b> Chili Cook-Off
March 17 <sup>th</sup> , at 7 pm	Session Meeting
March 20 <sup>th</sup> , at 10 am	Craft Group
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , after service	Lunch & Learn, Toward 2035
April 10 <sup>th</sup> , at 7 pm	Acoustic Blvd Concert

### **Chili Cook-Off!**

TOMORROW IS THE DAY!! 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.!

### **Kids' Clothing Swap ~ seeking donations**

We are hosting a kids' clothing swap on Saturday, April 25th from 10 am to 2 pm in the church hall. We are seeking donations of infant and kids' clothing (sizes 0 to 3 months to 14-16). We ask that clothing be donated in clear bags or boxes and that the clothing be clean, free of rips and stains, with working zippers. It would be a great help if your bag/box is labelled with the clothing size. The official drop-off for clothing donations is Friday, April 24th. An alternate drop-off time can be arranged by calling the church office.



**Cheese Orders are Due today!**

## **Lunch and Learn: Toward 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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's not all numbers! Come to be challenged & inspired.

## **Spring Concert ~ Acoustic Blvd**

The Stewards invite you to mark your calendars for a spring concert on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The evening will feature the band Acoustic Blvd who perform classic acoustic rock songs from the 60's and 70's to present day. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance from a Steward, the church office or at the door.

## **Craft Group**

The Crafters are having an initial meeting on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 a.m. to discuss ideas for the bazaar. Bring your ideas, your samples, and your imagination. If you can't make it send your ideas along to Marion Hillyard.

## **Operation Clean Sweep**

Newcastle United Church is joining the Clean-Up Crew for Operation Clean Sweep! The clean-up is on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This project is to clean up and beautiful the Port of Newcastle, Bond Head and the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area. Interested in being part of the Newcastle United Church team? Already plan to participate, but with another team? Either way, please let Brian Reid know so he can share details and make sure you get a United Church of Canada button to wear!

## "He Turned the Water into Wine"

Johnny Cash & his wife June Carter went to Israel in 1968. They visited Nazareth, the sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall and other sites. They went into the town of Cana, just over the hills from Nazareth. There's a little church that sits over the cisterns that hold the water that Jesus used to turn into wine – where the first miracle was performed. In the church they saw the cisterns and could hear sounds of the water and the echo. Upon leaving, Johnny was so impressed and inspired that as they drove towards Tiberias, he wrote the song, "He Turned the Water into Wine".

## 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, Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne shares her grandmother's pie crust recipe, along with a reflection on how through feeding others, we can feel truly fed. Find the series on <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/kitchen-conversations-moderator-episode-4-apple-pie-sharon>

*Stewardship Second, March 15<sup>th</sup>,  
Fourth Sunday in Lent Use generosity and  
gratitude to bring light, truth, and wholeness*

**1 Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.**

**2 Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;  
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.**

### ***Listening For God's Word***

**Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

**Gospel Reading: John 9:1-21; 24-34**

**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: "It Is Well With My Soul"**

**Message: "Who is this God?"**

**Hymn: VU 271**

**vv 1-5**

**"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

**1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.**

**2 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.**

**3 There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that Christ has shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
from a love so true and deep?**

**5 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.**

### ***Responding To God's Word***

#### **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 642 "Be Thou My Vision"      vv 1-5**

**1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**

**4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

## **\*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**