



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

March 22nd, 2026, 10:30 am

Fifth 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 recognize the lands on which we gather are situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations.

As people with one creator, all made in the image of God, and who are called to be loving neighbours, let us commit to the responsibility of reconciliation and the work of increasing awareness and understanding of our shared history. Let us recognize and acknowledge the past and work towards a shared future as friends and allies.

Announcements

Lighting The Christ Candle

Moment of Preparation: “Open the Eyes of My

Heart” Words and music: Paul Baloche Arranged by Victor Labenske

Silence is kept.

Call To Worship:

One: Like water to a dry riverbed,

All: so is God’s refreshing presence with us.

One: Like the warm sun on frozen ground,

All: so is God’s hopeful presence with us.

One: Like a child’s laughter among serious adults,

All: so is God’s joyful presence with us.

One: Like the song of birds on an early spring day,
All: so we experience God's freeing presence.

***Hymn: VU 373 "As Comes the Breath of Spring"**

**1 As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.**

**You come with thrill of life
to chase hence winter's breath,
to hush to peace the strife
of sin that ends in death.**

**2 You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,
to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
how wise, how good to choose
the truth and its brave fight,
to prize it, win or lose,
and live on your delight.**

**3 You come like songs at morn
that fill the earth with joy,
till we, in Christ newborn,
new strength in praise employ.
You come to rouse the heart
from drifting to despair,
through high hopes to impart
life with an ampler air.**

**4 You breathe and there is health;
you move and there is power;
you whisper, there is wealth**

of love, your richest dower.
Your presence is to us
like summer in the soul;
your joy shines forth and then
life blossoms to its goal.

Opening Prayer:

All: Mighty God: out of love, you sent Jesus into the world, to free us from all that holds us back and binds us up. Bless us with your life-giving breath, so that we may find ourselves restored and strengthened. Call forth our faith, so that we may live in hope, knowing you to be the resurrection and the life, both in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

All: There is new life in God!

One: By God's gift we are called out of our many deaths.

All: We choose life today and for all time!

Conversation Time

***Hymn: VU 703 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"**

**1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!**

Announcements

Sunday March 22nd, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are David and Louise Tegtmeyer.

Today's Reader is Heather Griffin.

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!

Lunch and Learn: Toward 2035

Please plan to stay after church today for a Lunch and Learn! 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.

Lent...a time to Reflect and Pray

This Wednesday, 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.

Dates at a Glance.....

Today, after the service	Lunch & Learn, Toward 2035
March 25 th , at 11 am	Vision 200 Meeting
March 29 th , at 9 am	Stewards Meeting
April 3 rd , at 10:30 am	Good Friday Service
April 19 th , at 7 pm	Acoustic Blvd Concert

Flowers For Easter

You are invited to make a donation for Easter flowers in loving memory or in honour of a loved one. Donations may be placed in the light blue envelopes available in at the church entrance. Please include **both** your loved one's name and your own name (so we can include your donation on your annual receipt). Your loved one's name will be lovingly acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Chili Dinner Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Chili Dinner such a wonderful success. We are grateful to all the volunteers who prepared food, served our guests, welcomed people at the door, helped in the kitchen, provided music, washed dishes, and stayed late to clean up and take down tables. Your time, energy, and teamwork made the evening run smoothly and created a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

We also extend a sincere thank you to everyone who came out to support the event. Thanks to your generosity and participation, we raised almost \$500 for our church. Your support and community spirit are greatly appreciated! 🌶️

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.

Spring Concert ~ Acoustic Blvd

The Stewards invite you to mark your calendars for a spring concert on Sunday, April 19th 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.

Operation Clean Sweep

Newcastle United Church is joining the Clean-Up Crew for Operation Clean Sweep! The clean-up is on Saturday, April 18th 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!

Kitchen Conversations

This week, we're joined by Isla Sheridan-Jonah, a Youth Climate Motivator with the United Church, for a classic after-church snack of cupcakes and lemonade at Speedside United Church, a historic community of faith in rural Ontario with roots dating back to the 1840s. Isla reflects on how what we choose to eat connects us with the wider world, whether through its impact on climate, or the lives of those who harvest it.

*Stewardship Second, March 22nd,
Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Our stewardship reflects our relationship with God; our relationship with God transforms our stewardship.

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

In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;

what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Listening For God's Word

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 130 (VU p.853, refrain 2)

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

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: “Lord, If Only You Had Been Here” Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Message: “Easter Joy in the Midst of Lent”

***Hymn: VU 382 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.**
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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

***Closing Hymn: VU 108**

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**
- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.**
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.**

**5 So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!**

**6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!**

***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