



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026,

10:30 am

## Third 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.”*

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## ***Gathering With God And One Another***

*\*Indicates for congregation to stand in body or in spirit.*

### **Welcome**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

As we prepare to worship in this place, we acknowledge that we are gathered 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 Indigenous peoples have been serving as stewards of this land for thousands of years – long before European settlers came and began claiming it. Indigenous communities continue their care for the land, and we are called to join them, living into the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

We honour the light of Creation at work in all of our hearts and commit to journeying together in truth, gentleness and love.

### **Announcements**

### **Lighting The Christ Candle**

**Moment of Preparation: “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”** Composed by John S. Norris Arranged by Victor Labenske

*Silence is kept.*

## **Call To Worship:**

One: We are on a journey of faith.

**All: We travel with Jesus Christ as our guide.**

One: The promises of God shine before us, and give us confidence for our journey.

**All: And yet we can still wander and lose our way.**

One: So we gather in worship, to receive of God's grace.

**All: We seek to be nourished and sustained by God's word.**

One: Truly God is with us!

**\*Hymn: VU 391 "God, Reveal Your Presence"**

**1 God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you  
and with awe appear before you.**

**Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,  
gather now with deepest reverence.**

**You alone God we own,  
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for  
ever.**

**2 God, reveal your presence: hear the harps  
resounding;  
see the crowds the throne surrounding.  
'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,  
angels, saints, their voices blending.  
Bow your ear to us here;  
hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.**

**3 O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
trusting only in your merit;  
like the holy angels gathered all before you,  
may I ceaselessly adore you.  
Let your will ever still  
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**All: Gracious God, you are the spring of life and the source of goodness. In Jesus Christ you offer us life-giving water, to restore us and renew us. In worship we begin to respond to your gracious offer. In this hour may we find ourselves both thirsting for you and refreshed by you. And may our prayers and our praises help us to travel in the Spirit this coming week. Amen.**

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

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

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

**One: Each of us is thirsty for good news.**

**All: And the good news is that we depend not on ourselves, but on the grace of God.**

**One: The grace of God fills us with gentleness and love.**

**All: The grace of God blesses us with fullness of life.**

#### **Conversation Time**

**\*Hymn: MV 145 "Draw the Circle Wide"**

**Chorus**      Draw the circle wide,  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
no one stands alone,  
standing side by side  
draw the circle wide.

**1** God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms..... **CHORUS**

**2** Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call..... **CHORUS**

**3** Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door..... **CHORUS**

*Listening For God's Word*

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 139 (VU p. 861)**

**Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42**

**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: "He Walks Beside Me"**

Words by Pat Lake; Music by Bev Jeeves & Pat Lake

**Message: “Living Water”**

**\*Hymn: MV 144 “Like a Healing Stream”**

**1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream  
unfolding,  
promising revival and rebirth...  
like a healing stream.**

**2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new  
creation,  
yearning for an end to want and need...  
like a gentle rain.**

**3 Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,  
calling for an end to hate and war ...  
like a river strong.**

**4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts to shape a new  
tomorrow,  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle  
rain,  
like a healing stream.**

## ***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 120 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

**1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the  
end;**

**remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my  
friend:**

**I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my  
guide.**

**2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever  
near;**

**I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I  
hear;**

**my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul  
from sin.**

**3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear  
and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-  
will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my  
soul.**

**4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow  
you,  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be  
too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the  
end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my  
friend.**

**\*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**

# Announcements

Sunday March 8<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 Don and Donna Scott.

Today's Reader is Hope Pascoe.

## **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 Ministry and Personnel.

## **Chili Cook-Off!**

**Calling all chili enthusiasts!** The Stewards are sponsoring a delicious chili supper on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 9 <sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm	Crock Pot Dinner
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Stewards Meeting
March 17 <sup>th</sup> , at 7 pm	Session Meeting
March 16 <sup>th</sup> , at 4:30-6:30 pm	Chili Cook-Off
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , after service	Lunch & Learn, Project 2035
April 10 <sup>th</sup> , at 7 pm	Acoustic Blvd Concert

### **Spring Concert ~ Acoustic Blvd**

The Stewards invite you to mark your calendars for a spring concert set for 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.

### **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!!

## **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.

## **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 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 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, United Church Digital Content Strategist Aaron Gallegos makes a weeknight favourite, Coptic Chickpeas, and shares how the dish for him reflects "God's Upside-Down Kingdom," where God embraces what the world discards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dkF5ibbOoI&t=1s>

## **Craft Group**

The Crafters are having an initial meeting on Friday, March 20th 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.

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

We are hosting a kids' clothing swap on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>. An alternate drop-off time can be arranged by calling the church office.

## **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.

*Stewardship Second, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday in Lent  
Sharing what we have—our time, our energy,  
our money, our belongings—spreads water on  
a world thirsting for justice.*