



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

November 30th, 2025,

10:30 am

“Hope Coming Into the World”
The First Sunday of Advent

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. Let us recognize and acknowledge the past and work towards a shared future as friends and allies.

Announcements

Moment of Preparation: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

15th Century German Carol arr. Phillip Keveren

(Silence is kept.)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sung Response: VU 7 “Hope Is a Star” (verse 1)

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

Call To Worship:

One: Advent is a season of waiting.

All: But we do not wait alone.

One: God is with us.

All: We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, and felt the tug in their hearts.

One: God is bringing hope into this waiting world.

All: Let us worship with hearts open to God's life-changing presence.

***Opening Hymn: VU 1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vv. 1, 2, 3**

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**3 O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Opening Prayer:

All: O God, we enter into this season of preparation and anticipation, longing to skip ahead and celebrate the coming of your light into our darkness. But first, you would have us slow

down, breathe deeply and prepare ourselves to receive your gift. In our time of worship, teach us that your Holy Spirit comes in powerful and unexpected ways. Open our hearts and minds so that we might recognize you moving in and through this gathering and throughout the season of Advent. In Christ's name and in Christ's way, we worship in hope today. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

Assurance of God's Healing Love:

One: We are waiting for God.

All: And God is waiting for us!

One: Are you ready to prepare for the advent of new life within?

All: Yes, we are ready and willing to being again with God.

Conversation Time

***Hymn: VU 6 "A Candle Is Burning"**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 4

**1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

**4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

Listening For God's Word

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:47-55 (VU p. 898, refrain 1)

Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise; in God my saviour I rejoice.

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.

Message: "Mary...not so meek and mild"

Ministry of Music: "Will We Know Him?" Besig/Price

Responding To God's Word

Invitation to The Offering

***Offertory Hymn:** VU 55 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

v.4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

***Hymn: VU 473 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”**

vv. 1-4

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with awe and reverence stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to us approacheth
our full homage to demand.**

- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.**

- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.**

Announcements

Sunday November 30th, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Dorothy Stapleton and Carol Weatherup.

Today's Reader is Gail Empey.

Bible Study is Wednesday at 10 am.

The Sanctuary will be open for Quiet Reflection Wednesday Dec, 3rd, 10th, and 17th, from 11 am to 1 pm.

Coffee Plus

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



Dates at a Glance....

December 24 th , 7 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January 13 th , 2026, 7 pm	Official Board Meeting

White Gift Sunday

Our food bank has identified a family who needs our help this Christmas. Faith in Motion will be posting gift ideas on a board in the hall. To participate, simply take one of the gift ideas off the board, purchase your item, and bring it to service on Sunday, December 14th. No need to wrap it in white, any bag or box will do. Please speak to Robin Blesse if you have questions.

Thank You!!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the bazaar last Saturday. We couldn't have done it without you, the contributors, helpers and spenders. We raised \$4000 which will go to church expenses. Thank you all so much!

Flowers For Advent

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

FundScrip

We will be taking orders for gift cards ordered from Fundscrip this month. Forms will be available in the vestibule as well as in the narthex. You can see on the order form, the percentage that the church makes when you purchase a card. Cards include a variety of retailers. Makes excellent Christmas gifts for those hard to buy for people! Orders are due **TODAY** and cards will be back by December 7th.

Food Bank

In light of all the recent donations to the Food Bank, we will hold off donations for the end of November. The Food Bank is very grateful to everyone for all the donations to Faith in Motion food drive. Please take a sticky note from our White Gift Sunday Board and plan your next givings for our White Gift Family.

Cheese Orders

Cheese orders will go out this week and be back for next week. Make sure you have enough for your holiday entertaining! Forms in Narthex or Emily St vestibule. Due back on the December 14th.

Mission and Service Bows

Our annual Mission and Service Bow campaign has begun. Donations to the M and S Fund will be designated by coloured bows which will be placed on our Christmas tree each week until Christmas. Bows may be purchased in denominations as follows: \$25-49, red; \$50-\$75, green; \$75-\$100, silver; and \$100+ is gold. However, any amount is most welcome!

“**Gifts with Vision**” brochures are in the Narthex. These gifts are an additional way to support the work of The United Church of Canada’s Mission and Service Partners.

<https://united-church.ca/donate>

By Phone- Local: 416-231-5931 ext. 2738

Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738

Meditation/Reflection in the Sanctuary this Advent

In addition to Bible Study on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, the sanctuary will be heated and open for silent reflection during the first three Wednesdays in December (December 3rd, 10th and 17th) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you wish, a guided art meditation on the characters of the nativity will be available to use during this time.

PAR vs Envelopes

Have you considered switching your monthly gifts to PAR--Pre-Authorized Remittance? PAR will deduct any amount you choose, from your bank account every month, on the 20th. No more worry of cheques, or envelopes to remember each week. Your monthly gifts provide a steady and reliable source of funding. Costs of providing envelopes has greatly increased, we can put the savings back to the church. See Lynne or Susan for more info.

Be Scent Aware....

Exposure to perfumes, colognes and other scented products such as aftershave, body spray, and laundry products, can trigger reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities. We respectfully ask you to avoid using scented products; instead, use scent-free alternatives when joining us at Newcastle United Church. Thank you.

November 30: First Sunday in Advent

As you consider your Christmas giving this year, how can you give in order to bring hope?

Ministry in our church is shared between the congregation and 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-4:00 pm
905-987-4515
office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Organist/ Choir Director: Donna Barber
Choir practice: Thursdays, 3:00 pm

Book the Hall

property@newcastleunitedchurch.org

**4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high!**

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God is with us.

All: We are not alone.

One: Christ is present in this place.

All: The Spirit is moving in our midst.

One: Let us give thanks to God!

All: We give you thanks, God of hope and promise.

One: We give you thanks, for throughout our lives and throughout the life of this world, you have been preparing the way so that we might find our path back to you.

All: Again and again, you have sent your messengers to prepare the way through the wilderness of our living.

One: Your prophets spoke of Emmanuel, God-with-us. In them you showed us your earnest desire to be with us and for us.

All: In Mary, woman of your promise, you showed us courage and faith.

One: In Joseph, man of your way, you showed us loyalty and love.

All: In John the Baptist, prophet of forgiveness, you showed us our need to start afresh and to begin again.

One: In the fullness of time, you sent us Jesus the Christ, your word made flesh and dwelling among us.

All: He lived the way by healing the sick and by standing with the poor and the oppressed.

One: He showed the way by opening the eyes of the blind and by proclaiming the good news of your kingdom to all people.

All: He led the way to the cross, where he willingly gave himself to reveal your full nature and to make clear our pathway to becoming whole people, which is both your desire and ours.

One: On the night before Jesus died, he gave us the gift of bread and cup, so that we might be forever reminded of his life and death, and so that in this very moment and in our everyday living we might embrace his resurrection.

All: By the death of Jesus Christ, you have destroyed the power of death, and by raising him to life you have prepared and shown us the way to abundant living.

One: Recalling his life and his death, embracing his resurrection, we now look for his coming into our lives and into the world, joining in the Advent prayer of all your people,

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

One: Having learned of the many ways that you have tried to reach us, having beheld your word in Christ, we ask now that you, O God, unite us with your way and your word, as we pray together saying, ...

The Lord's Prayer

Calling Upon the Holy Spirit

All: O God, as you sent Jesus Christ to show us the way, send your Spirit upon us now. Bless these gifts and our actions, so that our hearts may be opened to receive Christ into our lives once again. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Please approach down the centre aisle and return to pews walking back up the outside aisles. Please place empty communion cups in the baskets on the front pew. Thank you. For those who are unable please let the ushers know by raising your hand so we can serve you.

Prayer after Communion

All: God of hope: we give you thanks, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Throughout these Advent days, equip each one of us for our waiting and our work, fill each one of us with the energy of anticipation, and make each one of us ready and willing to welcome Christ into our lives once again. Amen.

Going Into The World

***Closing Hymn: VU 5 “All Earth Is Waiting”**

vv. 1-4

**1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.**

**All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**

**2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.**

**3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**

**4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.**

***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: "Christmas Time Is Here/O Christmas Tree" arr. Donna Barber



Flowers in the Sanctuary

Don and Gwen Holmes

**In Memory of Jean and Jack
Holmes**

John and Jo-Ann Smithson

**In Memory of Dave and
Dorothy Bowler**

Lynne, Richard and Family

**In Memory of our Fathers,
Don Pringle and Frank
Jefferson**

**Love from Heather and
Francis**

**In Memory of Frank, Eva, &
John Hoar**

Advent: Preparing for the birth of Jesus

The custom of lighting candles on a decorated wreath comes to us from the Lutheran Church in Scandinavia. Like the Christmas tree, the Advent wreath has its origins in pre-Christian festivals of light which celebrated the winter solstice. In recent years it has been used in churches and homes as a reminder of our time of preparation for the coming of Christ, into our hearts and into our world. The wreath is a circle, symbolizing the eternity of God. God has no beginning or end. The evergreen boughs are a symbol of eternal life and a reminder of the steady, unchanging love of God. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The white candle in the center is the Christ candle.

The appropriate candles can be lit during the main meal in your family's day. Choose a meal once a week where the following words might be read by an adult or older child.

To be read some time during the week of November 30th

One: Today we light the first Advent candle, and we begin to wait. (*Light first purple candle.*) We are looking forward to something special. What can it be? When is it going to happen? When we light this candle, we watch, wait, and hope.

Two: This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us. We wait in hope for God to surprise us and break into our lives.

Other ideas to help bring meaning to the holidays:

When setting up your nativity scene, place baby Jesus aside. Place baby Jesus in the manger Christmas morning before the stockings are opened.

Remember that Christmas is a season that lasts for 12 days (December 25th to January 6th), so spread out your celebrations! Leave your advent wreath out until Epiphany, only lighting the center Christ candle for the 12 days of Christmas.