

BULLETIN NOTATIONS

VU-Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**-More Voices Hymn Book
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*** Indicates to please stand, if able**

“Let the beloved in the Lord rest secure in Him, for He shields us all day long.” Deuteronomy 33:12

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

“A candle loses nothing when it lights another candle.”

— Thomas Jefferson

INTROIT: VU 60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore. Him Christ the Lord.
For He alone is worthy. For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy. Christ the Lord.**

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Jesus said, “Love one another.”

**We come to worship God who is love
that we may learn to love one another.**

Jesus said, “No longer do I call you servants;
now I call you my friends.”

**We come to worship God,
whose friends we are in Christ.**

Let us praise God and live in love and friendship
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us worship, Let us pray.

-2-

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Wondrous God:

**You touch our lives with healing and justice;
new life is Your gift.**

**We praise You for the Good News
which is ours through Jesus Christ.**

**May this time of worship nourish us
with Your promise of meaning and purpose.**

**May we carry Your goodness and grace into the coming
week. We pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** VU 559 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

TIME OF REFLECTION and CONFESSION

Using the words of David from Psalm 51:

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.**

**⁴Against You, You only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight;
so You are right in Your verdict
and justified when You judge.**

Silent Reflection

**¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.**

**²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

***HYMN:** HWC 371 “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (*sung*) vs.2

**Have Thine own way Lord Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master today!
Whiter than snow Lord wash me just now,
As in thy presence, humbly I bow.**

Receive God’s gracious forgiveness for those of us who sincerely repent.

RESPONSIVE READING VU pg. 900 “Song of Zechariah”

READER: Sheila Laundry

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 3:1-17

Matthew 3:1-17:

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “United in Christ” Price/Besig

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***SUNG RESPONSE: VU 540**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

***OFFERING PRAYER: (in unison)**

Gracious God,

**You have taught us that it is better to give than to receive.
You have blessed us with abundance
and we can never out-give you.
Receive these offerings that come from our hearts
as well as our hands.**

**May Your blessing magnify their benefits.
We pray in the Name of Jesus who gives us all things. Amen.**

May our prayers rise like incense to God’s Throne.

PASTORAL PRAYER

(Lord hear our prayer, and in your love, answer)

THE LORD’S PRAYER: *(sung – VU 959)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

***HYMN VU 100** “When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized”

MESSAGE: “Life Goes On For Jesus”

***CLOSING HYMN VU 343:** “I Love to Tell the Story”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

AFTER WORSHIP, everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship on the lower level.

LARGE PRINT HYMNS and RESPONSIVE READINGS are available on the pew as you enter the sanctuary.

PRAYER LIST
As we face life’s challenges, we are encouraged by those who surround us with their prayers. If you would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please tell the minister or a member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAUC (NIAGARA ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCHES): Meeting on January 18th at 9:30 am at the Central United Church in Port Colborne. All are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU!: On behalf of the Niagara Chapter of the Huntington Society of Canada, I would like to thank all those who bought Amaryllis plants from me. Thanks to the Outreach Committee for supporting my charity, I was able to sell 49 flowers to church members, 14 to House Tour participants and 12 to the Garden Club. The Niagara Chapter sold 70 cases which is 840 amaryllis plants and we were pretty much sold out across Canada, which is our biggest fundraiser. So thank you again for supporting myself and the Niagara Chapter of HSC. Thanks! Gail DeKoning

REMINDER: Everyone is asked to please wear your name tags at church on Sundays, to make it easier for newcomers to remember your name.

REMINDER: For all the committee chairs/group leaders submissions for the Annual Report are due in January 2025 for those who need to make a submission.

A CAPPELLA NIAGARA CHORUS: Now starts on a new evening! New guests are invited to join with us on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Jan. 18 – 9:30 am | NAUC Mtg at Central United |
| Jan. 19 – 9:30 am | Sunday Service |
| Jan. 26 – 9:30 am | Sunday Service |
| Feb. 2 – 9:30 am | Sunday Service |
| Feb. 9 – 9:30 am | Sunday Service |

**TO MAKE A DONATION TO FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH,
YOU ARE WELCOME TO:**

- 1) Mail a cheque to the church at: Fonthill United Church, Box 926,
Fonthill ON L0S 1E0.
- 2) Drop your cheque donation, anytime, through the mail slot in the
exterior office door at the church.
- 3) Bring cash donations into the office when the church office is open.
 - 4) Send an e-transfer to: fonthilu@vaxxine.com.
 - 5) Sign up for the pre-authorized remittance program (PAR).
Contact the church office to register.

***Donations on Sundays may be placed in the offering plate at the
entrance to the sanctuary. We thank you for your support!***

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FONTHILL UNITED

Monday Jan 13	8:00 am	Montessori School
	4:00 pm	Music Lessons
	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
Tuesday Jan 14	8:00 am	Montessori School
	9:00 am	Badminton
	2:00 pm	Music Lessons
	4:45 pm	Sportball
Wednesday Jan 15	8:00 am	Montessori School
	1:30 pm	Pickle Ball
	2:30 pm	Music Lessons
	3:30 pm	Music Lessons
	6:00 pm	A Cappella Practice
	6:00 pm	Cubs
Thursday Jan 16	8:00 am	Montessori School
	9:00 am	Badminton
	2:00 pm	Music Lessons
	3:00 pm	Choir Practice
	Friday Jan 17	8:00 am
Saturday Jan 18	12:30 pm	Music Lessons
	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
Sunday Jan 19	9:30 am	Sunday Service

Fonthill United Church

January 12, 2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

Words inspire us. Music uplifts us.
United in God's love,
we strive to be an inclusive community,
learning together and supporting others with compassion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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