

*Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship  
Northlea United Church*

Sunday, October 9, 2011 10:30 am

Minister – Reverend Jim McKnight

Music Director – Marc McNamara



**Worship Celebration  
Thanksgiving Sunday**

*Dear God, we pray you grant us the gift of a thankful heart.*

(oft repeated prayer of Rev. Lenore Beecham)

**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

*There are times during the service when the congregation stands, following the lead of the choir. At these times, please stand as you are comfortable and able.*

**10:10 Hymn Sing**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome and Announcements**

**Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

**Introit: O Sing To The Lord**

Eleanor Daley

**Call to Worship:**

One: In the coldness of empty space, a sun shines.

**All: On an ordinary planet, life springs in rich abundance.**

One: In a sacred place, people gather to sing and pray;

**All: with joy, with love, with thanks.**

(Robin Wardlaw, Trinity United Church, Newmarket, Ont.)

**Opening Hymn: Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet**

**VU 245**

**Lighting the Christ Candle and Invocation**

**The Peace:**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

**Sung Response**

**VU 955**

**Opening Prayer** (Gail Corbett, Mark Street United Church, Peterborough):

**At this sacred season  
we come with thanksgiving  
into this holy place remembering that  
before the mountains were formed you knew us  
and patterned the swirls on our fingertips  
and coloured our eyes.**

**God of infinite variety and magnitude  
we praise you for life’s seasons of  
bittersweet and beauty  
sunshine and rain  
livestock and fowl  
orchards and vineyards  
feast days and holidays,  
for our life, for our breath.**

**Holy! Holy! Holy!  
The earth is full of your glory!  
Creator God  
to you we sing songs of thanksgiving.**

**To you, we pray in Jesus’ name...**

**The Lord’s Prayer (spoken)**

**VU 921**

**WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD**

**Children’s Hymn: We Praise You for the Sun**

**VU 225**

**Theme Conversation and Thanksgiving Litany**

(as printed on the back of the Order of Service)

*After the Theme Conversation, the children and leaders are invited to go to Cool Church. Children ages 4 to 11 go to the classrooms in the Lower Hall, pre-teens and teens (ages 12 to 15) go to the Youth Room upstairs, and infants and toddlers (newborns to 3 years) go to the Nursery on the main floor. Children who are visiting are invited and welcomed to join in!*

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Gracious Holy Spirit, lend us your delight of understanding, that the Gospel word we hear might find fulfillment in the ways we live. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

**NIV 132**

**One: The promise of God is bountiful plenty;**

**All: an abundance of riches, and blessings for all.**

**And blessings for all!**

**Congregational Reading - from Psalm 65**

One: Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
O you, who answer prayer!

**All: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds  
are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening  
shout for joy.**

One: You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;

**All: the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.**

R

One: You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.**

R

**Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19**

**NIV 741**

One: The promise of our thanks is, surely, life;

**All: and the promise of our life is, surely, Christ.  
Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem: Come Build a Church**

Ken Medema

**Sermon: All Grace in Thanksgiving**

**Hymn: Give Thanks for Life**

**VU 706**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**The Offering is Received**

**Offertory Music**

**Offertory Response**

**VU 541**

**Offertory Prayer** (after Karen Boivin, Maxville-Moose Creek United Church, Maxville, Ontario, and Zion United Church, Apple Hill, Ontario):

**God of farmlands, towns and cities, we thank you that we have been able to support ourselves and our families in these places. Accept this portion of our living. May it promote the safekeeping of your Creation and the equitable distribution of its gifts among your people. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Morning Prayers**

**Closing Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth** (Tune: VU 81)

**VU 226**

**Commissioning**

**Choral Benediction and Amen**

**VU 963**

**Postlude**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

**Tues Oct 11	<b>Congregation Life</b> meets at 7:00 in the Nursery
**Tues Oct 11	<b>Shall We Talk?</b> 8:00 p.m. in the Library
Tues Oct 11 - <b>The UCW Anniversary Unit</b> will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Our speaker will be our own Paul Coulombe on the topic of "Changes in Publishing". All are welcome. Please let Jackie Morris know if you plan to attend.	
Wed Oct 12	<b>Taizé Service</b> 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Thurs Oct 13	<b>Cool Church Players</b> practice at 3:45
<p align="center"><b>Friday, Oct 14, 7- 9 P.M. – ALL AGES BINGO</b>  <b>Come, and join in at any time during the evening!</b>  <b>\$5/person, \$10/family. Snacks and Prizes!</b>  <b>Tickets available after church or from the office.</b></p> <p>If you can donate a prize, please drop it off at the office marked for “Bingo night”. If you can bring a snack, or wish to help out,, please give Lynne Fulcher a call at 416-615-0489 or let Barb in the office know. Thank You!!</p>	

**\*\* Please note changes in the start times for events on October 11.**

\* Adult Choir practices are on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

# SHALL WE TALK?

SOME DISCUSSION PROMPTS ON

MIRACLES  
or  
SERENDIPITY

Why did **THAT** happen?

"If there are no miracles then we need to find another word for the existence of life - the existence of you and me - on earth. Call it a gift from spirit (God or god in whatever form works for you), serendipity, happenstance or plain good fortune. I invite you to look at your life as if it were a miracle. To treat your life in any other way seems to me to be a terrible waste of your unique presence on this planet." (Robert White)

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." (Albert Einstein)

"One aspect of serendipity . . . is that you have to be looking for something in order to find something else." (Lawrence Block)

What demands does a faith-based orientation to the world make on the process of finding messages and meanings in the range of ordinary human experience? Should we be looking for miracles? Should we be trying to cause them? Should we insist that "life, the universe and everything" should be viewed as sacred? And what do we do about evil?

**MIRACLE  
AS  
MESSAGE AND  
MEANING**

As far as anyone knows only the earth in a COSMOS that has a diameter of 93 billion light years (and expanding) hosts life and people.

Does this incredible rareness - this serendipity to end all serendipities - not mean that we should treat our own lives and those of others at least "as if" they were very, very special?

"Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results," (Albert Einstein)

**If so, then why do we so often treat each other with disdain, violence, and disrespect? Why do we treat the earth in ways that threaten its very habitability? Why do we not recognize the miracle?**

**Now it's your turn - what does MIRACLE mean for you? (A Tweet?)**

**MIRACLE:**

Join the Discussion Group at 8 pm on Tuesday, Oct 11, in the Library  
(Larger print copies of Shall We Talk available in the Narthex)