

## Worship this week:

LENT

### “Faithful Setback”

Pastor Chris Slusar

Scripture Reading:

Mark 8.27-33

achievement for human space exploration. Yet, amidst the technical marvels and challenges, action star and martial artist Chuck Norris casts our gaze back over half a century to the Apollo missions, reminding us of the profound spiritual moments experienced by astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. His reflections offer a poignant juxtaposition to the recent lunar landing, which, despite its technical setbacks, represents a continuation of humanity's quest to reach beyond our earthly confines.

#### The Spiritual Odyssey of Apollo

Recalling his own awe at 29, watching the Apollo 11 mission's successful moon landing, Norris highlights the lesser-known spiritual experiences of the astronauts. Buzz Aldrin, in a moment of profound personal significance, conducted the first communion ceremony on the moon, a testament to human faith under the gaze of the universe. This act, representing the first liquid poured and food eaten on the lunar surface, underlines the deep personal faith backgrounds of the astronauts involved. Norris also points to the Apollo Prayer League's initiative, which saw a microfilm Bible brought to the lunar surface, intertwining the realms of science and spirituality in these historic missions.

#### A Connection Beyond Worlds

Norris draws a parallel between Armstrong's emotional connection to ancient religious sites on Earth and his lunar experiences. Walking on the moon, Armstrong felt a profound connection, akin to stepping on the ancient steps in Jerusalem. This comparison not only highlights the spiritual impact of such monumental human achievements but also laments the lack of public school education on these aspects of the Apollo missions.

## ❖ Calendar

**Sundays** – (11:00 am) Sunday Live Worship at Parkdale United Church.

**Tuesdays** - (5:30 pm) Bible Study Group.

**Wednesdays** - (1:00-1:30 pm) Prayer Group.

## ❖ Reflections

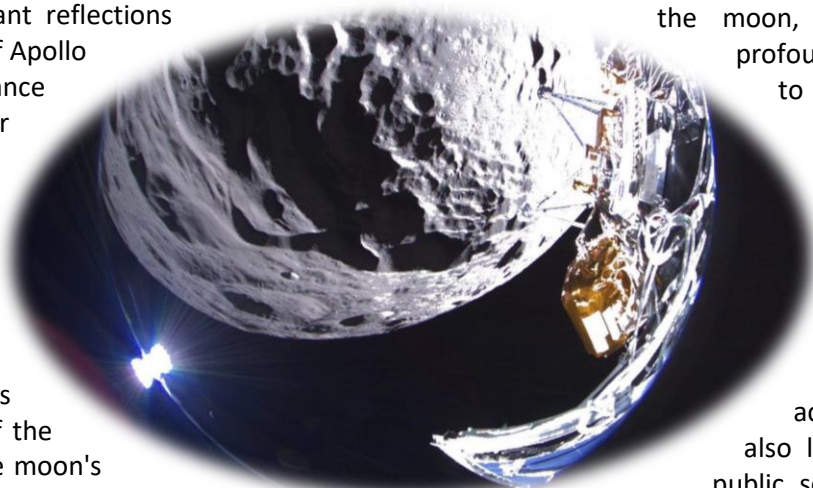
### Spiritual Legacy Of Apollo Missions Amidst Odysseus' Lunar Landing

By Nimrah Khatoon

(Post & image, Feb. 26, 2024, <https://bnnbreaking.com/>)

Chuck Norris offers poignant reflections on the spiritual moments of Apollo astronauts and the significance of the recent Odysseus lunar landing, showcasing the enduring connection between science and spirituality in human exploration.

In a moment where science fiction becomes science fact, the landing of the Odysseus spacecraft on the moon's surface marked a monumental



# THE PARKDALE MESSENGER

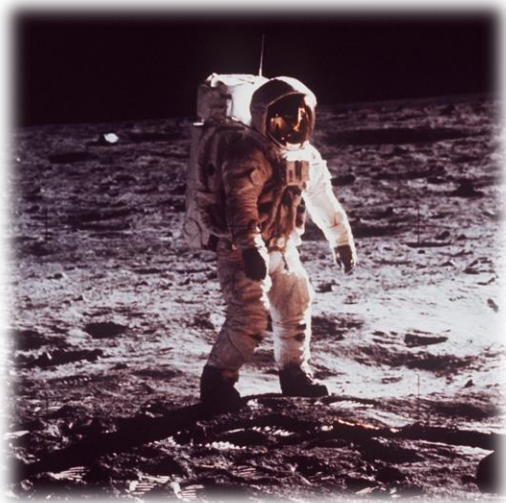
Weekly news and musings from  
the little church moved by a Great Spirit

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Norris's reflections call for a rediscovery of the Creator's influence in these endeavors, suggesting that such moments of human achievement are also moments of spiritual reflection and connection.



## Odysseus: A New Chapter in Lunar Exploration

Despite encountering technical issues upon descent, the Odysseus spacecraft's landing represents the first U.S. spacecraft to touch the moon's surface in over 50 years. Capturing new photos from its harrowing descent, Odysseus, although tipping over, managed to send back images of its surroundings, marking the furthest south landing on the moon with successful communication with ground controllers. This achievement, chronicled by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, signifies a new chapter in lunar exploration and the ongoing quest to understand our place in the cosmos.

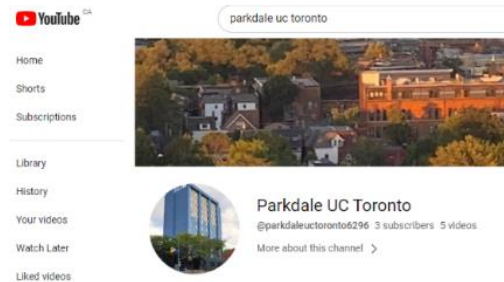
As we look to the stars, the intertwining of scientific achievement and spiritual reflection remains as relevant today as it was during the Apollo missions. Chuck Norris's reflections remind us that, in our quest for knowledge and exploration, we also embark on a profoundly personal and collective spiritual journey. The Odysseus landing, with its technical triumphs and challenges, continues this legacy, inviting us to reflect on our place in the universe and the spiritual connections that ground us to our past, propel us into

the future, and remind us of the wonders that lie beyond our earthly home.

Amen.

## ➤ WATCH SERVICE ONLINE

You can follow the services live every Sunday or catch-



up previous dates on YOUTUBE:

**Parkdale UC Toronto@parkdaleucutoronto6296**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNw8\\_sNSzhA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNw8_sNSzhA)

## ➤ FOOD BANK

Each week people come to our church for food. There is a basket in the narthex today for your contribution. Canned meats, stews, canned tuna and salmon, and fruits are particularly appreciated.

## ➤ NEW EMAIL OFFERING SERVICE:

You can send our offering via e-transfers using the following email address:

**[puctreasurer171@gmail.com](mailto:puctreasurer171@gmail.com)**

For information or if you want to post something in The Parkdale Messenger, please contact us:

[parkdale.messenger@rogers.com](mailto:parkdale.messenger@rogers.com)