

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016    11 am

ADVENT IV: LOVE

Celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy season! If you are new or visiting today, please let us know if we can be of any help. We hope you feel at home in our midst. Advent hope, peace, joy and love to you all!

## THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born!*  
Meister Eckhart, 13<sup>th</sup> C.

## T H E    G A T H E R I N G

\*Please rise in body or in spirit for sections marked with an asterisk.

**\*WELCOME**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

*All Sing:*      Come, O Child of Love we pray.  
Enter our hearts and show us your way.  
Promise of God, Heaven's pure Light,  
Love for our world shining bright!  
Come, O Child of Love, we pray.

**Narrator 1:** The fulfillment of God's promises were ultimately to be displayed in a kingdom founded on love:

**Narrator 2:** "I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations!"

**Narrator 1:** The darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;

**Narrator 2:** And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light!

*The Fourth Advent Candle (Blue) is lit*

**All Sing:**       **Come, O Child of Love we pray.  
Enter our hearts and show us your way.  
Promise of God, Heaven's pure Light,  
Love for our world shining bright!  
Come, O Child of Love, we pray.**

**Narrator 1:** And as we wait, we pray together, saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**\*HYMN #69 VU Away In A Manger**

**Introduction to The Sacrament (From: *A Song of Faith*):**

In grateful response to God's abundant love,  
we bear in mind our integral connection  
to the earth and one another;

**we participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.**

To point to the presence of the holy in the world,

**the church receives, consecrates, and shares  
visible signs of the grace of God.**

In company with the churches  
of the Reformed and Methodist traditions,  
we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ:  
Baptism and Holy Communion.  
In these sacraments the ordinary things of life  
—water, bread, wine—  
point beyond themselves to God and God’s love,  
teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

**Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
we are born into the brokenness of this world.  
Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
we are surrounded by God’s redeeming love.**

Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity  
is the means by which we are received, at any age,  
into the covenanted community of the church.  
It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith  
and cleansing by the power of God.

**Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining,  
and transforming power of God’s love  
and our grateful response to that grace.**

**The Presentation of the Candidate** – Lloyd Penney, Session:

Jesus said: ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to them that the kingdom of God belongs. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

On behalf of the congregation of New Maryland United Church, I present **Lucas John Haines** for initiation into the body of Christ through Baptism.

### **Profession of Faith and Promises**

#### **Questions to Parents, Jeffrey and Melissa (Taylor) Haines:**

Do you believe in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit/  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words  
and by your actions?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you live in the knowledge and love of God, resisting evil,  
living with respect in creation, and loving and serving others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you continue to grow in faith, so that being strengthened  
by the Holy Spirit and nurtured at the Table of the Lord, you may  
go forth to serve God faithfully in the world?

**I will, God being my helper.**

#### **(Congregation will stand)**

As the congregation of New Maryland United Church, do you commit  
yourself to support and nurture **Lucas and his family**, with your love  
and prayers, as they return to their own community?

**We do, by the grace of God.**

### **Prayer Of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you!**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Moses your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom, and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land.

You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the Jordan, and became Living Water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and sent them forth to baptize with water and the Spirit.

By your Holy Spirit O God, bless this water we pray. May it be a sign of new life in Christ. Amen.

### **The Act of Baptism**

**Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

**Marking with the sign of the cross**

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit**

**Aaronic Blessing**

**Declaration and Presenting him to the Congregation**

**Presentation of Certificate and Candle**

**A Song For Lucas: *God Claims You***

## **T H E   R E S P O N S E**

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY: All That We Have (From *Gather* )**

**All that we have and all that we offer,  
Comes from a heart both frightened and free.  
Take what we bring now and give what we need.  
All done in his name.**

# THE WORD OF GOD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: *What Shall We Call This Child?*

ANTHEM: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr. E. Lund

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### The Invitation

\*HYMN#76 VU See Amid The Winter's Snow

\*A CHRISTMAS CREED (origin: South America)

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, begun in Bethlehem.  
**I believe in the one: whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room at the inn.**

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.  
**I believe in the one to whom the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, and the injured gave welcome, and accept as Lord and Savior.**

I believe in the one who—with love—changed the heart of the proud and with his life showed that it is better to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others.

**I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations; and love among all.**

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel.

**I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change,**

if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger.

**And I believe that I must be the first one to do so.**

# **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER (with sung responses to tune: #44 VU It Came Upon A Midnight Clear)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God!

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

God, you dreamed a wonderful dream -

and into that dream you brought all things into existence:

earth and air and water; starry night skies and snowy days,

and all that moves on land and in the sea. And you brought into creation, humanity. People who have lived out their lives trying to understand who they are, trying to understand their neighbour, trying to understand you, O God.

Sometimes they understood how to love. And sometimes they didn't.

Sometimes they didn't want to understand.

But you sent teachers and prophets, to tell and sing for them the story of your love, and to call them back again;

To call *us* back again.

And so, together with the voices of the saints of all times and places, we sing:

**Oh holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!**

When the time was right,

you sent to your people, Jesus of Nazareth.

Born of Mary, loved and protected by Joseph, he grew up, teaching and preaching and, most of all, loving us.

He tried to show us how to live your Kingdom -how to live your Love.

Blessed are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus who came into this world as our Emmanuel: God-with-us. Healing and challenging, welcoming and loving, he came!

He laughed with those who laughed,  
and cried with those who cried, and

he invited everyone – everyone - to eat together at your table of Love!

And on the same night in which he was betrayed....(*the narrative continues*)

And so as his disciples, we eat and drink and remember:

**Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

And now, O God, we ask your blessing upon this bread and this cup.

We ask that your Holy Spirit would fill this moment, that we might truly be Christ's body in this world. Fill our souls with your presence that we might fill the world with your Love!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all is yours God most holy, now and forever!

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

+++++*We share the Feast*+++++

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison):**

**Our souls magnify you, O God! Our spirits rejoice in you, our Saviour! Holy is your name! Amen!**

**\*HYMN# 74 VU What Child is This**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BLESSING: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star MV#220**

**Love shines as the solitary star.**

**Faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**

**And illumine the pathway Home.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: [nmuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nmuc@nb.aibn.com)

Website: [www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://www.newmarylandunited.ca)

*If you know of someone in hospital please notify the Church. Please forward items of prayer and celebration to the Minister. For emergencies, you may call Rev. Burke at 470-9634.*

**Greeters This Week:** Sue and Paul Morrison

**Tellers This Week:** Lloyd Penney and Bob Watson

**Trustees On Duty (Dec):** Doug Price and Dave Ward

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am - Advent IV –Worship- Holy Communion**

**Tue., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm - Carolling – Meet at NMUC, then carpool**

**Sat., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service**

**10:00 pm - Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion**

**Sun., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - 11:00 am - Worship Service**

## **“THE TUPLING FAMILY”**

The costs involved in going through a transplant are astronomical. If you would like to help the Tupling family out, you can do so by going through the church. Just mark “Ron Tupling” on your envelope and we will make sure your donation is deposited in their bank account. And please know that your offering of prayer is even more appreciated!

Our **MITTEN TREE** is now in place and ready to receive any knitted items you would like to contribute. By Christmas, these items will be distributed wherever the need exists.

**UCW - Church calendars** are now available for purchase for \$6. See Sue Morrison following the service.

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER** - The latest edition of “**The Beacon**” has been sent out electronically; however, for those who prefer a hard copy, they are available at the main door today.

New copies of “**Our Daily Bread**” (Dec/Jan/Feb) are now available at the main entrance of the Church. These copies are provided free of charge, however, a container for those wishing to make a donation to Radio Price Class is available.

**GREEN TIP:** The Green Committee wishes our Church family all the hope, peace, joy and love which the Christ Child made possible for us.

**FOOD BANK** - For the month of **December**, we will focus on **school snacks: puddings, fruit cups, granola bars, and juice boxes.** (Note that egg cartons are no longer needed.) The staff at the Food Bank extend a huge thank you to all the people in the congregation who have contributed over the past year.

**STORM NOTICE** - In the event that Church service is cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be informed in the various manners, **but not before 8:30 am.**

1. **E-mail notification** (if you have e-mail, this is the most direct method);
2. **Radio stations: CBC, JOY-FM, CAPITAL;**
3. **Web-site: [Http://www.newmarylandunited.ca/](http://www.newmarylandunited.ca/) it will be on the scrolling feeder on the Home Page;**
4. **Answering machine on the church telephone (459-3313).**

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

**Organ Recitals at St. Paul's** - Two noon-time organ recitals will be held at St. Paul's United Church (George Street at York) during the Advent season. They will be on Wednesday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 21. Both will start at 12:10 p.m. and conclude at 12:50 p.m. The December 14 recital will feature David Drinkell, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral. Dr. Sharon Pond, organist at St. Paul's, will present the second recital on December 21. Both recitals will include classical repertoire as well as seasonal selections. The December 21 concert will also include The Choral Collective, a quintet of teenaged singers, performing a program of Christmas and seasonal songs. A freewill offering in support of Hospice Fredericton will be received at both events.