

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Musical Director: Lynda-Jean Coffin, B.A, B.Ed., Music

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 11 am  
ADVENT IV: LOVE  
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this sacred morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. Let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples—predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people. Grace and peace to you all!

## Thought for Meditation

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations? Did you know that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb? The sleeping Child you're holding is the great "I am."*

Mark Lowry

## THE GATHERING

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

### \*ENTRANCE OF THE CHOIR: #1 VU, v. 4

O Come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe, deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us worship the Lord together!

### \*HYMN #58 VU Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

# **THE ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY: Shannon, Cole, Kailey, Becca and Brayden Wight**

**Reader 1:** And so continues the Season of Advent: the season of waiting for Jesus to be born.

**Reader 2:** It is a season of waiting in wonder; A season of waiting in LOVE,

**Reader 3:** just as Mary and Joseph waited for God's surprising promise of a son, who was to be called Jesus.

**Reader 4:** And so week by week, Sunday by Sunday, we wait in hope, and peace and joy and love. And as we do, we will light the Advent candles.

**Reader 1:** This ritual helps us to prepare our hearts for the great gift of the king born in a manger: Emmanuel: God-with-us!

*[The Blue Candle of Love is lit]*

**ALL SING: Hope is Shining, v. 4**

V. MacKenzie

**Love is shining in the darkness, Rejoice! The Lord is near.**

**We are waiting for the Christ child, the Saviour to appear.**

**Our Messiah, born in Bethlehem, will lead us through the night.**

**Love is shining in the darkness, follow its light.**

**Reader 2:** And now let us pray together, as the Light of the World taught us, 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.**

**CHILDREN'S HYMN #7 VU, v. 4, Love is a Flame**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**CHILDREN'S HYMN#7 VU, v. 4, Love is a Flame**

## **T H E R E S P O N S E**

### **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DURING OFFERING: Choir: *Born In The Night* (#95 VU)**

**OFFERTORY: (#55 VU, verse 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 man, I would do my part;**

**yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

## **T H E W O R D O F G O D**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1: 26-33**

**SERMON: *What Will It Take? Love. All The Love This World Can Hold!***

**ANTHEM: *Wind Through The Olive Trees* Gordon/Ito**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **THE INVITATION**

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

**\* THE 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, the injured gave welcome, and accept as Saviour.**

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.

**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 The 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:

From the beginning of the beginning, O God, you waited, and watched, and wondered. And when the moment was right, your advent ended, and you brought all things into being:

**Light and shadow, stars and angels, heaven and earth!**

And all creation cried:

**Glory!**

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 *we* don't.**

And so you sent teachers and prophets, to tell, and shout, and sing, the story of your Love, and to call them back again.

**To call *us* back again.**

And so, together with the saints of all time and place, 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 heaven, creation sings your praise,  
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!*

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!

And one night, the same night in which he was to be 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, and upon your gathered people. May your Holy Spirit fill this moment that we might truly become Christ's body for this world. Fill our souls with your presence, that we might fill the world with your Love!

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

-----*We Share the Feast*-----

**UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (J. Betjeman):**

**No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine**

**\*HYMN #38 VU Angels We Have Heard on High**

**\*BENEDICTION**

\* **CHORAL BLESSING: (#69 VU Away In A Manger, v. 3)**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.**

**Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

## **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. Dr. Kelly Burke at 470-9634.*

**Greeters This Week:** Chandra and Tenley MacBean

**Trustees On Duty (Dec):** Jim Merrill and Ann Urquhart

**Tellers Today:** Merlin Tracy and Tina Glenn

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

<b>Mon., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> -</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b>
	<b>10 pm</b>	<b>Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sun., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> -</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>

**U.C.W. 2019 United Church calendars** are now available for purchase for \$8.00. Lorna Ball is the contact person.

**The Church envelopes for 2019** will be available for pick up next Sunday.

**GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE** – For the month of **December**, we will focus on **stove top dressing, cranberry sauce or 1 litre apple or orange juice**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.