

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

875 Route 101 Hwy. Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C1 Phone:506-459-3313
Minister: Rev. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Musical Director: Allan Morgan, B.Mus, J.D.
Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed

December 20th, 2015 11 am
ADVENT IV ~ Love in The Marian Tradition
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. If you are visiting or new to the congregation please introduce yourself to Rev. Burke. Advent grace and peace to you all!

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Never be afraid of loving the Virgin Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did. --Saint Maximilian Kolbe

THE GATHERING

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

*WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY:

Reader 1: We have been watching and waiting through these days of Advent.

Reader 2: Watching and waiting for Jesus the Light of the World, to come and be born among us.

Reader 1: As we waited we have lit candles to push back the darkness, and told stories of our ancestors, to remind us who we are.

Reader 2: And now we light the last Story candle, the Candle of Love.

[last blue candle is lit]

All sing: (from: Gather # 328)

**Come, hope of the world, comfort your people.
Come, hope of the world, comfort our hearts.
Come, heal all our sorrow, with love and compassion,
Come, hope of the world, bring peace to us all.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison:)

Leader: God of Love, in the midst of the bustle, we can lose sight of the quiet star that calls to us.

People: **Help us to see the promise of the season.**

Leader: In the midst of the tasks, we can lose our way to the little town called Bethlehem, which is our story.

People: **Help us to journey to the heart of the season.**

Leader: In the midst of the rush, we can lose our compassion for those who ask if there is any room in our hearts.

People: **Help us to share the love of this season.**

Leader: This we pray in the name of Emmanuel, 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 #69 VU Away In A Manger v.1

Time With The Children

CHILDREN'S HYMN #69 VU Away In A Manger v.3

THE RESPONSE

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 GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38, 46-49

SERMON: *What ARE We Going To Do About Mary???*

ANTHEM: *Would you Bring A Song?* Robert Lau

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE

The Invitation To The Meal

*HYMN # 64 VU O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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, 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:

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 water, stars and air, heaven and earth. And all creation cried: Alleluia!

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.

Sometimes, because of want, or fear, or anger or greed, people stopped loving one another; stopped loving themselves; stopped loving you.

But you sent teachers and prophets, to tell and shout 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!**

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 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: (#75 VU v.6)

**All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc@nb.aibn.com

Website: 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: The Tupling and Knorr families

Tellers This Week: Lloyd Penney and Loraine Ward

Trustees On Duty (Dec): Lloyd Penney and Doug Price

Sunday School: Sheila Power **Nursery:** Lorna Ball

LOOKING AHEAD:

Tue., Dec. 22nd - 6:30 pm - Carolling – Meet at NMUC, then carpool

Thur., Dec. 24th - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00 pm - Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion

Sun., Dec. 27th - 11:00 am - Worship Service

Come Carolling!

On **Tuesday, December 22nd**, join us for an evening of carolling. We will meet at the Church at **6:30 pm** and then carpool to various households in New Maryland. Hot chocolate will round off the evening at Rev. Kelly's (100 Berkley Dr.)

The **Church envelopes for 2016** are now available for pick up from the back door. This includes anyone on PAR. If anyone wishes envelopes or has any questions or concerns, contact Lloyd Penney at 459-8622 or lloydpenney@bellaliant.net.

GREEN TIP: Paraffin candles are made from petroleum residue and not good for your health or the environment. Candles made from soy, beeswax or natural vegetable-based wax are more eco-friendly because they biodegrade and are smoke free.

M&S Fund: Just a reminder of the Sunday School sponsored fundraiser for the Mission and Service Fund, our "Spare Change Jars". We would like to have all Jars returned to the church by the beginning of January. Please feel free to continue until this time. However, if your jar is filled before that, we will certainly accept it whenever you would like to bring it in. Each year, the New Maryland United Church pledges to donate a certain amount to the Mission and Service Fund. Estimating what the "Spare Change Jars" will bring in, the M&S collection for our church is still about \$1000 short of where it usually is by this time in the year. The M.&S. committee would ask you to keep this in mind over the next couple of months. Every little bit helps us in reaching our goal for 2015!

<p>FOOD BANK - For the month of December, we will focus on canned tuna/salmon/ham. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.</p>

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. Website: <http://www.newmarylandunited.ca/> It will be on the scrolling feeder on the Home Page.

The answering machine on the church telephone (459-3313).