

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Musical Director: Allan Morgan, B.Mus, J.D.
Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed

December 13th, 2015 11 am
ADVENT III ~ CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

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

Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment.

Rumi

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY:

Reader 1: We have been watching the light of Advent grow, candle by candle.

Reader 2: The blue Story Candles of Hope and Peace are shining amongst us.

Reader 1: Today we continue in our story telling. And we light the third candle, the pink one, the Candle of Joy.

Reader 2: It reminds us that even as we wait for the Light of the world, we are called to rejoice!

[pink candle is lit]

All sing: (from: Gather # 328)

**Come, light of the world, light up our lives, Lord.
Come, light of the world, light up our hearts.
Dispel all our darkness, remove all our blindness,
Come, light of the world, be light for our eyes.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison:)

On this Advent day of sign and sacrament, of water and word; on this day of faith and family, of promise and praise: may we recognize your presence here O God, with us and amongst us. This we ask in the spirit of Emmanuel, who taught his friends to 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 BAPTISM

***HYMN# 455 VU This Child of Ours**

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 – Sue Harris, the Clerk of 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 **Tenley Allison MacBean** for initiation into the body of Christ through Baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises

Questions to Parents, Chandra and Craig MacBean:

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 **Tenley and her family**, within this
community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice,
and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

Question to the Godparents, Tracy MacBean Fraser and Angela Meisner:

Will you care for, pray for, and help to guide this child, that she may grow into her faith?

We will, 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 Spirit

Aaronic Blessing

Declaration and Presenting them to the Congregation

Presentation of Certificate and Candle

A Song For The Newly Baptized: *Tenley, Tenley, God Claims You*

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1, selected verses

ANTHEM: *Who Is This Child?* Jill Gallina

SERMON: *A Tale of a Silent Old Man, Expectant Women Who Burst into Song and Leaping Babies*

***HYMN #47 VU Still, Still, Still**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING (during offering: Solo: Carolyn Hatt)

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN#58 VU Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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.

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Today's bulletin is dedicated by Gary MacBean to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife Allison Gail MacBean, paternal grandmother of Tenley Allison MacBean whose Baptism we celebrate this day.

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: Nancy Jenkins and Marjorie Olmstead

Tellers This Week: Lloyd Penney and Jim Merrill

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sun., Dec. 20th - 11:00 am - Advent IV – Worship - Holy Communion

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

Copies of “The Beacon” are available for pick up today at the main door.

U.C.W. - Church calendars are now available for purchase for \$6. See Anne Johnson following the service.

It's that time of year ...our **MITTEN TREE** is now in place to receive any knitted items you would like to contribute. By Christmas, these items will be distributed wherever the need exists.

The **Outreach Committee** will be making up the Community Kitchen roster for 2016. If you would like to be removed from the existing list or added to it please let Nancy Ostaff know by **Dec. 12th**. 457-2377 or ostaffdn@rogers.com

M&S Fund: Just a reminder of the Sunday School sponsored fundraiser for the Mission and Service Fund, our "Spare Change Jars". As you get home from your busy day, with all that change loading down your pockets and purses, please feel free to use the spare change jar to lighten your load! 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. Every little bit helps us in reaching our goal for 2015!

GREEN TIP: If your strands of lights are more than 10 years old, it will be more efficient to replace them with newer LED bulbs. They can save you up to 90% on power costs and will last longer than traditional bulbs. All your Christmas lights should be on timers both indoors and outside. Don't count on remembering to turn them off after a long day.

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

New copies of "Our Daily Bread" (Dec/Jan/Feb) are now available at the front 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.

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).

The new New Maryland United Church website is now in place. Please have a look by googling New Maryland United Church in your browser or using the web address of <http://www.newmarylandunited.ca>. Many thanks to Pam Gonnason for her lovely new painting of our church displayed on our web site and to Kaye Lister for providing the many pictures for the web site; without her it would not have come together so quickly. The site is easily edited so please email or phone me with any concerns you have. This is your web site; I am only the administrator. Hopefully, with your input, we can keep the site current. Thanks for your help. Sue Harris