

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Minister: Rev. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div

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Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed

December 24th, 2015 10 pm

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

A Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion

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

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.**

THE COMING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT & CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here in the darkness, a light shines.

ALL: It is the Light of the World.

One: The Light of Peace, and Hope; the Light of Joy and Love.

ALL: The Light shines in the darkness, and draws us all near.

One: And so here we are, gathered together, to welcome the Christ child: The Light of the World!

WELCOME

***HYMN#62 VU Once In Royal David's City**

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace: be born in us again this night. Still us, that we might hear the angels sing, the footfall of shepherds, and the cry of a newborn, who has come to save us all. And now together we pray, 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.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

SOLO: *O Holy Night* – Carolyn Hatt

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (#81 VU, v.3)

**As they offered gifts most rare, at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King!**

REFLECTION: *A Night of Mysteries*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Narrative of institution

++++++*We Share the Feast*++++++

Prayer After Communion:

**No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in the 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. Amen.**

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

A choir member will come down and light the candle of the person at the end of the row. They will say: *The Light of Christ!* The response may be: *Amen!* This continues as you light the candle of the person next to you, and so on. When everyone's candle is lit, we will sing together: Silent. (*Note: slide the cup down the candle for the purpose of lighting. Once lit, slide the cup up to fully enclose the flame. The person with the lit candle should hold it upright, and the unlit candle can be tipped to receive the light.*)

***HYMN# 67 Silent Night**

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BLESSING: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

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