

# **NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH**

## **THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

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**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**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016    11 am**  
**CELEBRATING THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**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. Merry Christmas to you all!**

### **THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION**

***Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.***  
**Stephen Hawking**

## **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**

### **\*INTROIT: Angels We Have Heard On High (#38 VU, v.3)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King!  
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo!**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Leader: Let there be light.**

**All: The light of the world as held in God our Creator's hand**

**Leader: Let there be light.**

**All: The light of Christ which shines within us.**

**Leader: Let there be light.**

**All: The light of the Holy Spirit guiding our way.**

**Leader: Let there be light. And let us worship now, the Light of the World!**

**\*HYMN# 91 The First Nowell verses 2,3,4, and 5**

**OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)**

**We come, O God, out of the darkness, searching for the One who shall light our way. Guide us to the surprising place of holiness as you did those travellers of old. And may the light of your grace shine upon us all as we gather now in worship. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to 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.**

**HYMN #81 As With Gladness Men of Old verse 1**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**HYMN # 81 As With Gladness Men of Old verse 2**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**In the light of the star...**

**we are forced to look at our lives more closely.**

**Watching the magi arrive,**

**we are challenged to offer our own gifts to the child.**

**As we look at our lives and respond to the challenge,**

**we confess that our lives are not what they could be, that we sometimes fail to live up to the challenge of being your people.**

**For the times we do not go far enough, when we abandon the search for Your way and presence, forgive us we pray.**

*...time of silent confession...*

Assurance of Pardon:

Many times in our life's journey we, like the Magi, come into the presence of God-made-Manifest. Because of that we know that we are accepted and forgiven and sent out again to continue the journey.

**Thanks be to the God who travels with us. Amen.**

## **T H E   W O R D   O F   G O D**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6**

**SERMON: *Following a Star***

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY (tune #81VU, verse 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!**

**PRAYERS & LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Holy God, Light of Light, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end: we balance on the cusp of our days,  
**teetering between old and new, between coming and going, between sojourning and homecoming.**

To you, O God, we entrust all our yesterdays: yours to hallow and hold; yours to forgive and cherish.

**To you O God, we dedicate all our tomorrows: strengthen and challenge us; and guide us to your light.**

And hold us – and surprise us, O God! - in the holy now! And blessed be all those we encounter.

**Blessed be our humility, blessed be our care, blessed be our blunders  
Blessed be this family of faith in this time and place! Amen!**

**\*HYMN# 96 Will You Come And See The Light**

**\*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.**

