

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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December 13th, 2020 11 am
ADVENT III: JOY: Finding Ourselves at the Crèche

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

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb. Mary Oliver

THE GATHERING

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

*THE WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The joy of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

THE ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY:

Voice 1: Through this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth,

Voice 2: this tiny baby, born long ago, in a village far away.

People: The One called Emmanuel, “God with us.”

Voice 1: A mystery celebrated by the very heavens and earth: rolling waves and shining moon; soft snow falling deep and sheep on a hillside fast asleep.

Voice 2: Donkey hooves and stars a-glowing, nesting doves and cattle lowing;

People: All creation together proclaiming: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Voice 1: And so we light the Candle of JOY.

(Light the Pink Candle)

Voice 2: Let us pray:

**All: As we recall the old, old stories of your birth, Lord,
we look for new stories, written in the lives of all humanity.
Open our lives to your Spirit. Be born in us, today.**

All Sing: (VU #) A Candle is Burning (VU# 6, v.3)

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,

A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow

As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Voice 1: 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.

MUSIC: #56 VU Jesus, Our Brother

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1-3, 6-9

SERMON/STORY: *Creation's Joy: Isaiah, Francis, And The Babe of Bethlehem*

Music: *Joy Is Like The Rain* Moon Joyce & Cathy Holtmann M.T. Winter

T H E R E S P O N S E

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC: #58 VU *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: (#64 VU verse 4)

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**