

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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December 20th, 2020 11 am
ADVENT IV: LOVE: 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

This is love:

*to fly toward a secret sky,
to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment.
First to let go of life.
Finally, to take a step without feet.*

Rumi

THE GATHERING

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

*THE WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The Love of Christ be with you all!

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: Such a mystery was too deep for human understanding.

Voice 2: But not too deep for the human heart. So Mary treasured all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Voice 1: And Joseph heeded the words of an angel. And pondered them in *his* heart. And together they brought forth love.

People: To become human, is to become Love in action.

Voice 2: And so we light a Candle of Love.

(Light the Last Blue Candle)

Voice 1: 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.4)

A candle is burning, a candle of love,

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

For Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.

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: *O ANCIENT LOVE*

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

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1Corinthians 13

SERMON: *Christmas And The Uneasy Ways of Love*

MUSIC: Moon Joyce: *Give Yourself To Love* K.Wolf

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #76 VU See Amid The Winter's Snow

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: Away In A Manger v.3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay

Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with you there.