

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Minister: The Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div, D.Min Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Musical Director: Lynda-Jean Coffin, B.A, B.Ed., Music

December 6th, 2020 11 am
ADVENT II: PEACE: Finding Ourselves at the Crèche
WHITE GIFT SUNDAY & THE MITTEN TREE

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

*So hope for a great sea-change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that further shore
Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracle
And cures and healing wells.
Seamus Heaney*

THE GATHERING

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

*THE WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The peace 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: the tiny baby, born long ago, in a village far away.

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

Voice 1: Every Christmas story, ancient or modern, includes someone bringing gifts to the Christ child.

Voice 2: As if our impulse to give is evidence in itself, of the presence of the Divine:

Voice 1: The presence of the Divine in both the one who gives, and the one who receives.

People: And in the giving and receiving, there is peace.

Voice 2: And so we light the Candle of Peace.

(Light the Second 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.2)

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Voice 2: 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.

WHITE GIFTS & THE MITTEN TREE

MUSIC: Moon Joyce and Cathy Holtmann: *In The Bleak Midwinter*

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-5, 13-16

SERMON/STORY: *Gunshots, Soccer Balls and Silent Night: On Yet Finding The Christmas Story*

MUSIC: Moon Joyce and Cathy Holtmann: *A Song Of Peace*

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Sheila Power

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: *Peace Be With You*