

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

875 Route 101 Hwy. Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C1 Phone: 506-459-3313
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 19th, 2021 11 am
ADVENT IV: LOVE

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

There's a story behind everything. How a picture got on a wall. How a scar got on your face. Sometimes the stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heartbreaking. But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin."

Mitch Albom, For One More Day

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!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us worship together!

*HYMN #38 VU Angels We Have Heard On High

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY:

Voice 1: From light comes life.

All: Deep in expectant earth, a seed stretches.

Voice 2: Through the fire-start of imagination,

All: an idea takes root.

Voice 1: And Love glows within.

Voice 2: Safe in the womb,

All: a child senses its season turning, and stirs.

Voice 1: It is Advent, something coming: vulnerable, powerful,

Voice 2: God, unquenchable light.

All: May they grow – the seed, the love, the idea, the child.

Voice 1: Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar.

Voice 2: Throw open your mind. Hand over your heart. Here it comes -

ALL: Love.

Voice 1: It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows.

Voice 2: It will not cower and cannot be contained.

Voice 1: It was the hope of the saints, and the courage of Mother Mary.

Voice 2: Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky.

Voice 1: Love, you lead us home.

(Light the fourth candle)

Voice 2: We light a candle for love, in our hearts and in our homes.

All Sing: : **Hope Is A Star** (#7 VU verse 4)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there is joy in our song,

The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

Voice 1: Let your Spirit burn in our hearts, O God; let your Light shine in our world;

Voice 2: And as our time of waiting for the baby's birth draws near, let your Love be born anew in us all.

ALL: May this candle of Love light the way.

Voice 1: And hear us now as 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.**

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

ANTHEM: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [H. Hopson/E. Lund arr.] ~ David Ward, Dorothy Webster, Sharon Noel, Lynda-Jean Coffin

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 1-20

SERMON: *How We Tell The Story We Love*

***HYMN #60 VU See Amid The Winter's Snow**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN #60 VU O Come, All Ye Faithful**

***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.**

***The bulletin today is dedicated in memory of Ron Tupling.
Lovingly remembered by Krista, Jess and Abby.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc@nb.aibn.com

Website: www.newmarylandunited.ca

If you know of someone in hospital please notify the Church. Please forward items of prayer and celebration to the Minister. For emergencies, you may call Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke at 470-9634.

Greeter This Week: Meg Simms and Pam Campbell

Tellers This Week: Jim Merrill and Meg Simms

Trustees On Duty (Dec): David Ward

LOOKING AHEAD:

Fri., Dec. 24th - *7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00 pm - Service of Candlelight & Communion

Sun., Dec. 26th - **No service (see below)

***Please pre-register for the 7pm Christmas Eve service so we can ensure a happy and safe time! Call 459-3313 or 470-9634 and tell us how many in your group.**

*****With so many family commitments and hoped-for plans to gather safely with loved ones going on through Christmas, New Maryland United Church will NOT be holding a church service on Sunday December 26th. Rev. Kelly will be sending out Boxing Day message for you, with every good wish from us all for a healthy, and happy Christmas season!***

Office Notes: The church's office hours are **Tuesdays-Thursdays from 10 am to 12 noon and Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.** The office will be locked except for these hours and Sunday mornings.

Mission & Service Update: The totals are in for the Mission & Service Spare-Change-Jar fundraiser: **\$1350 was raised!** Thank you to everyone who donated in this endeavour as well as giving throughout the year. Our total contribution to Mission & Service at this time is about **\$3273**. Our commitment for the year is **\$4000**, so we are a bit short as of yet but are hoping to get closer by the end of the year.

The 2022 United Church calendars have arrived and are being sold by the UCW for \$8. See Lorna Ball or call the church office 459-3313. There are only 2 left!

The **2022 Church Envelopes** have arrived and are on the table in the upper foyer for you to pick up. Only those who use their envelopes regularly have been issued new ones this year. In an effort to reduce our costs, those using PAR will not receive 2022 envelopes. However, they will keep their same envelope number as in 2021.

If you are interested in obtaining church envelopes, or if you have any questions, please contact Sue Morrison (458 8150).

Your offerings continue to sustain the operation of this church and are greatly appreciated. The Committee of Stewards.

STORM NOTICE

In the event that Church service is cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be informed in the various manners, but **not before 8:30 am**.

1. E-mail notification: If you have e-mail, this is the most direct method.
 2. Radio Stations: CBC, JOY-FM, CAPITAL
 3. Website: <http://www.newmarylandunited.ca/> It will be on the Home Page.
 4. The answering machine on the church telephone (459-3313).
-