

# 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

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020    11 am  
ADVENT I: HOPE: 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

*Let us hope  
it will always be like this,  
each of us going on  
in our inexplicable ways  
building the universe.*

Mary Oliver, from *Why I Wake Early*

## THE GATHERING

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

### \*THE WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

**Leader:** The Hope of Advent be with you!

**People:** And also with you!

**Leader:** Let us worship together!

### THE ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY:

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

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

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

Voice 1: Every Christmas story, ancient or modern, also includes the ‘poor ones and humble;’ the glorious and well appointed; and the ordinary folks, going about their labours, attending to the work of the day.

Voice 2: Foresters and fishers, shepherds and bakers, carpenters and regal magi. There was no screening for worthiness at the crèche.

**People: Anyone who showed up was received.**

Voice 1: And so we light a Candle of Hope, that we might find ourselves here, welcomed into the sacred story.

*[Light the First Blue Candle]*

Voice 2: Let us pray:

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

**Sing: A Candle is Burning (VU# 6, v.1)**

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December’s dark night.**

**While angels sing blessings from heaven’s starry sky,  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**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.**

**SOLO: Lynda-Jean Coffin: *Born In The Night, Mary's Child* G. Ainger**

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

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 8-15**

**SERMON/STORY: *Finding Our Place in The Christmas Story***

**\*SOLO: Moon Joyce: *These Hands* Gunning/Canyon**

## **T H E R E S P O N S E**

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**DUET: Lynda-Jean Coffin & Moon Joyce: *Go Tell It On The Mountain***

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BLESSING: (#64 VU verse 4, alt tune)**

**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.**