

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

November 28th, 2021 11 am
ADVENT I: Hearing Anew The Old, Old Story

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

Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of hope — not the prudent gates of Optimism, which are somewhat narrower; but the place of truth-telling, about your own soul first of all and its condition, the piece of ground from which you see the world both as it is and as it could be, as it might be, as it will be; the place from which you glimpse not only struggle, but joy in the struggle — and we stand there, beckoning and calling, telling people what we are seeing, asking people what they see. Victoria Stafford

T H E G A T H E R I N G

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

*THE WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The Hope of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us worship together!

THE ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY: HOPE

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 is coming: vulnerable, powerful:

Voice 2: God, unquenchable light.

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

Voice 1: As winter days dim to early darkness, you, O God, set watch in the night.

Voice 2: You beckon the wise to follow.

Voice 1: When dreams hang low in the human heart,

Voice 2: breathe life into those embers:

ALL: Hope.

(Light the first blue candle.)

Voice 1: In this season of longing, we light a candle for hope.

All Sing: Hope Is A Star (#7 VU verse 1)

Hope is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright.

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 us pray. God of all hope, shine your light on the story of that first Christmas.

Voice 2: May the seeds that were planted that holy night– hope, peace, joy, love – take hold in our hearts.

ALL: May this Candle of Hope 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.**

HYMN #9 VU People Look East

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 55; Luke 2:8-11, 15

**ANTHEM: *Dream A Dream* (#158, MV) ~ David Ward, Dorothy Webster,
Sharon Noel, Lynda-Jean Coffin**

SERMON: *The Irrepressibility of A Prophet and Shepherds*

***HYMN # 36 VU Angels, From The Realms Of Glory**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN #43 VU Go Tell It On The Mountain**

***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.**

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: Pam Campbell and Linda Watson

Tellers This Week: Jim Merrill and Ann Urquhart

Trustees On Duty (Dec): David Ward

LOOKING AHEAD:

Tue., Nov. 30th - 7:00 pm - Official Board Meeting

Wed., Dec. 1st - 12:30 pm - Men's Club Christmas Luncheon (see below)

Sun., Dec. 5th - 11:00 am - Advent II – Peace – White Gift & Mitten Tree

Sun., Dec. 12th - 11:00 am - Advent III – Joy

Sun., Dec. 19th - 11:00 am - Advent IV – Love

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

10:00 pm - Service of Candlelight & Communion

(*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.)

Your Advent letter is available today for pick up in our main foyer.

Next Sunday, December 5th will be our White Gift Sunday. Donated items (wrapped in white paper) will be received and distributed to those in need.

It's that time of year our MITTEN TREE is now in place and ready to receive any knitted items you would like to contribute. By Christmas, these items will be distributed to wherever the need exists.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 12:30 pm, the Men's Club will be holding their Christmas outing at Wetmores. This outing is open to all men of the congregation. Please confirm your attendance with Keith Ball (455-1948) or Dave Ward (455-8208).

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 4 calendars left!)

New copies of **“Our Daily Bread” (Dec/Jan/Feb)** are now available at the main entrance. These copies are provided free of charge, however, a container is available for those wishing to make a donation to Radio Bible Class.

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.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE

For the month of **December**, we will focus on **canned meats (tuna/chicken/ham)**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

NEW MARYLAND LIONS CLUB FOOD/TOY DRIVE – There will NOT be the regular (door-to-door) food/toy drive again this year. Instead they ask that we all bring our donations to the Faith Baptist Church on one of the following dates: **Thur., Dec. 2nd – 6-9 pm or Saturday, Dec. 4th – 9 am – 1 pm.** In the past, our church has collected canned peas to contribute to this project and will be delivered to the Faith Baptist Church. The Christmas hampers help families in need in the New Maryland and surrounding areas.