

# 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 11 am  
ADVENT IV: Hearing Anew The Old, Old Story  
LOVE & THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

*Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.*  
Erich Fromm

## 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:

**Choir Sing:** (MV #47) Born in Human Likeness x2

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: And Mary wrapped her newborn in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

Voice 2: Such a fragile new life, exposed to the elements, threatened by Herod!

**People: To become human, is to become vulnerable.**

Voice 1: And so we light a Candle of Protecting  
*(Light the Last Blue Candle)*

Voice 2: 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.**

**Sing: (MV #47) Born in Human Likeness x2**

**Born in human likeness, found in human form:  
Jesus, “God is with us”, we proclaim your glory!**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S HYMN #62 Once In Royal David’s City verse 1**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**CHILDREN’S HYMN #62 Once In Royal David’s City verse 3**

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

### **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DURING OFFERING: Choir: *Long, Long, Time Ago***

**Besig/Price**

**OFFERTORY:** (#55 VU, verse 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

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

**THE GOSPEL LESSON:** Matthew 2:13-14

**SERMON:** *Love In Dangerous Times: Evil Rulers, Radical Bakers & Jesus*

**ANTHEM:** *Christmas Lullabye*

John Rutter

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **THE INVITATION**

**\*HYMN #76 VU See Amid The Winter's Snow**

**\* THE CHRISTMAS CREED (origin: South America)**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, begun in Bethlehem.

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room at the inn.**

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

**I believe in the one to whom the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the injured gave welcome, and accept as Saving Grace.**

I believe in the one who—with love—changed the heart of the proud and with his life showed that it is better to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others.

**I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations and love among all.**

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel.

**I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change**

if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger.

**I believe that I must be the first one to do so.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER (with sung responses to tune #44 VU It Came Upon The Midnight Clear):**

Let us pray:

From the beginning of the beginning, O God, you waited, and watched, and wondered. And when the moment was right, your advent ended, and all things came into being:

**Light and shadow, stars and angels, heaven and earth!**

And all creation cried:

**Glory!**

And so we sing:

*Oh, holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.*

*All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.*

*Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise,*

*And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!*

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,

so you embraced all people as your own, to raise them in your way of compassionate love.

From your own being you sent Jesus among us,

our Emmanuel: God-with-us: incarnate of the Holy Spirit,

and born of our sister Mary.

Healing and challenging, welcoming and loving he came, into such a world as this.

And one night, long ago, he gathered at table with his friends....

*(the narrative continues).*

And so, we eat and drink and remember:

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,*

*Christ will come again!*

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,*

*Christ will come again!*

And now, O God, we ask your blessing upon this bread, and this cup, and upon your gathered people. May your Holy Spirit fill this moment that we might truly become Christ's body for this world. Fill us with your presence, that we might fill the world with your Love!

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!*

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!*

-----*We Share the Feast*-----

**UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

**Emmanuel, God come in human likeness, Christ hidden within, as we rise from this table, may you rise in our lives: to feed the hungry, protect the vulnerable, and walk in your way. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #74 VU What Child Is This**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL BLESSING: (#64 VU verse 4, trad 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.**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: [nmuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nmuc@nb.aibn.com)

Website: [www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://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 Aidan Brown**

**Trustees On Duty (Dec): Lloyd Penney and Jim Merrill**

**Tellers On Duty: Merlin Tracy and Tina Glenn**

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Tue., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service**

**10:00 pm - Candlelight Service & Holy Communion**

**Sun., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am - First After Christmas**

**Sun., Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am - A Celebration of Epiphany**

The **2020 United Church envelopes** have arrived and are available for pick up in the main foyer. They are filed numerically.

The **2020 United Church calendars** have arrived and are being sold by the UCW for \$8. See Lorna Ball or call the church office at 459-3313.

## **GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE**

For the month of **December**, we will focus on **1 litre juice for Christmas hampers**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated. We are always looking for plastic grocery bags as well as we use them for packing.

## **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).