

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 29th, 2019 11 am
The Fifth Day of Christmas

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. If you are visiting or new to the congregation please introduce yourself to Rev. Dr. Burke. Grace and peace to you all in this Holy Season!

Thought for Meditation:

Always, we begin again. St. Benedict

THE GATHERING

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

*WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The joy of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

THE CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:

O Come All Ye Faithful, #60 VU, v.1

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come, ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem:

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Voice 1: On this Fifth Day of Christmas, we continue 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 2: Into their intimate family gathering, Mary and Joseph welcomed in strangers: Shy herdsmen, regal magi. No screening for worthiness. Anyone who showed up, was welcomed in.

People: To become human, is to become welcoming.

Voice 2: And so we lit a Candle of Welcoming
(Light First Blue Candle)

Voice 2: Every Christmas story, ancient or modern, includes someone bringing gifts to the Christ child.

People: To become human, is to become generous.

Voice 2: And so we lit a Candle of Generosity
(Light Second Blue Candle)

Voice 1: Such a mystery of Emmanuel was too deep for human understanding, but not too deep for the human heart. So Mary treasured these things, and pondered them in her heart.

People: To become human, is to become believing.

Voice 1: And so we lit a Candle of Believing
(Light Third Candle, Pink)

Voice 1: And because there was no room in the inn, Mary and Joseph made their way to the stable, and prepared a borrowed manger for their child.

People: To become human, is to become vulnerable.

Voice 1: And so we lit a Candle of Protecting
(Light Last Blue Candle)

Voice 1: The time came, as it was, and is, and evermore shall be, for Mary to deliver her child.

People: To become human, is to be born.

Voice 1: And so we light a Candle of Birth
(Light The Christ 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.**

ALL SING: O Come All Ye Faithful, #60 VU, v.4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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.

***HYMN #35 VU Good Christian Friends Rejoice**

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS: Ecclesiastes 3

ANTHEM: *'Twas In the Moon of Winter* Brebeuf/trad.

SERMON: *On Endings and New Beginnings....*

***HYMN #44 VU It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & 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.

A PRAYER LITANY FOR YEAR ENDING:

Leader: Holy God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end,
we balance on the cusp of our days,

People: teetering between old and new, between coming and going,
between sojourning and homecoming.

Leader: To you, O God, we give all our yesterdays; Hallow and hold
them.

People: To you, O God, we dedicate all our tomorrows; May we live
with integrity, hope

Leader: To you, O God, we offer this day, and this worship;

People: Bless it, and bless us who worship you, now and forever.
Amen.

***HYMN # 45 VU Joy Is Now In Every Place**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BLESSING: Auld Lang Syne**

**Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
For days of auld lang syne!**

**For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll drink a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.**