NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

875 Route 101 Hwy. Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C1 Phone:506-459-3313
Minister: Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div, D.Min Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Choir Director: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc., B.Th., M.Div Musician: Nathaniel Sergeant, B.A.

December 7th, 2025 11 am
ADVENT ll: PEACE
MEETING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Shepherds, Emperors & Angels

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this sacred morning. 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 friendship with its people. Grace and peace to you all.

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light. Light is an invitation to happiness, and that happiness, when it's done right, is a kind of holiness, palpable and redemptive. **Mary Oliver**

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

Leader: The Peace of Advent be with you!
People: And also with you!
Leader: Let us worship together!

***INTROIT: <u>God Of All Places</u> #4 VU, verse 3**
God of all people, dust and the clay;
Breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,
Light born of heaven, peace on the earth:
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

THE ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY:

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

Voice 2: The One called Emmanuel, "God with us;" the one called the Prince of Peace.

Voice 1: And every Christmas story, ancient or modern, includes the 'poor ones and humble,' and the glorious and well appointed.

Voice 2: And they all arrive at the manger, just as they are.

Voice 1: And they are all welcomed in. And something like peace is passed among them all.

Voice 2: And so we light a Candle of Peace, that we might also find ourselves welcomed into the sacred story.

[*The second blue Candle is lit.*]

All Sing:

We light this candle for peace.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
So peace can find a way, so peace can find a way.

["We Light This Candle," from *Then Light Us Sing,* UCC Publishing House 2025.]

Voice 1: And let us pray: Advent God, as we journey together towards Bethlehem's stable:

People: Attune our ears to the songs of the angels.

Voice 2: Focus our eyes on the mystery before us, and hear us as we dare to pray together, 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 # 36 VU Angels From The Realms Of Glory, v.1
WHITE GIFTS RECEIVED
CHILDREN'S HYMN #36 VU Angels From The Realms Of Glory, v.4

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 1-18

ANTHEM: ***Come, Light Of Christmas*** **C. Ovokaitys/D. Gaines, arr.**

SERMON: ***On Shepherds and Emperors: To Whom Do The Angels Sing?***

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

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

***OFFERING & OFFERTORY: <u>As Those Of Old</u> [#518 VU,v.3]**
With gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us, in Jesus Christ, your son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
***HYMN #62 VU Once In Royal David's City**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BLESSING: <u>Hope Shines As The Solitary Star</u> [#220 MV]**
Peace shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc875@gmail.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.

Greeters: The Morrison family
Tellers: D. Webster & A. Grant
Trustee on Duty (Dec): David Ward

The bulletin is dedicated today in loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Evelyn Flewelling from Elaine Bourque and Laurie Campbell and who was much loved for her love and kindness for all who knew her.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sun., Dec. 14th - 11 am - Advent lll: Joy
Wed., Dec. 17th - 6 pm - UCW Christmas Get Together
Sun., Dec. 21st - 11 am - Advent lV: Love & the Pageant
Wed., Dec. 24th - 7 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service
10 pm - Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion
Sun., Dec. 28th - 11 am - First After Christmas
Sun., Jan. 4th - 11 am - A Celebration of Epiphany

The **U.C.W.** will be holding their annual Christmas get together on **Wednesday, Dec. 17th at the earlier time of 6:00 pm** in my home **(215 Bradshaw Dr).** All women of the congregation are very welcome. For more information, call **Dorothy at 457-9795.**

Our **MITTEN TREE** is now ready to receive any knitted items that you would like to contribute. By Christmas, these items will be distributed wherever the need exists.

Note: Just a little advance notice to Chairs of all NMUC Committees that the annual report for their committee is due on **Monday, Jan. 12th, 2026.**

GREETER SIGN UP SHEET – Just a reminder that there is a "Greeter Schedule" posted at the back door. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter some Sunday morning, kindly fill in your name by any Sunday that would be convenient for you. Thanks!

CHURCH BULLETINS - Anyone wishing to sponsor a Sunday bulletin ($20), please contact the church office (459-3313). We encourage everyone to consider being a sponsor as it off sets the cost of our weekly bulletins. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the foyer if you'd like to sponsor a bulletin for a particular day.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE: For the month of **December,** we will focus on **canned tomatoes.** However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

New copies of **"Daily Breads" (Dec/Jan/Feb)** are now available in the foyer. These copies are provided free of charge, however, a container is available for those wishing to make a donation to Radio Bible Class.

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).