

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Worship Leader: Heather Donnelly

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:30 am  
12<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost

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. Grace and peace to you all.

## THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” – Fred Rogers*

## THE GATHERING

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

### \*WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

#### \*INTROIT: #90 MV Don't Be Afraid

**Don't be afraid, My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Holy One, our contractions are minutes apart.

**All: You stretch out your hand; You deliver.**

One: You coach us through pain as the pangs of birth make way for something new.

**All: You stretch out your hand; You deliver.**

One: “Push!” you say as your new creation appears.

**All: You stretch out your hand; You deliver.**

One: Holy One, fulfill this purpose in us. Labor with our hands to create new life.

**All: You stretch out your hand; You deliver.**

## **OPENING PRAYER: VU#280 – Mother and God**

### **SOUL SEARCHING**

**Mother God, stand on the birthstool with us.  
The pain is too much to bear.  
Our world has dealt so “shrewdly” with your people  
that your renewal seems impossible.  
Fears of economic uncertainty confront us all  
and seem to limit our choices;  
Fears of immigrants and strangers in our midst  
seem to require walls;  
Fears about changing traditions  
seem to require blocks to new family expressions.  
We lament, Mother God, but we don’t push through the fear.  
Let us open ourselves to labor with you.  
Stand on the birthstool with us.  
Push us to labor in your love, as we pray in the way of Jesus:**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **SOME TIME WITH EACH OTHER**

**\*HYMN #10 MV – Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom**

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 1:8 - 2:10  
Psalm 138 Voices United – page 860  
Matthew 16: 13-20**

### **REFLECTION**

**\*HYMN #380 VU She Comes Sailing on the Wind**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY What Can I Do? MV #191**

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing?**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (repeat once)**

## **DEDICATION**

**Mother God, with praise and thanks, vigor and sweat, care and hope, we  
bless these gifts in your love. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN #27 MV Creator God You Gave Us Life**

## **BENEDICTION**

**One: We go into the world as parents of your love.**

**All: We will be transformed by the renewing of our minds.**

**One: We will not think more highly of ourselves than we ought.**

**All: We will go to remember we can't do it alone.**

**One: We stretch out our hands.**

**All: Our Midwife God delivers.**

**\*CHORAL BLESSING: #213 MV Take Up His Song:**

**Take up his song of peace and go into the world.**

**Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.**

**In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;**

**lay them down, in peace, lay them down,**

**and take up his song.**

**SPECIAL BEACON EDITION: A special anniversary 'Beacon' is being planned to help celebrate not only Canada's 150th birthday but also New Maryland United Church's 130th. The committee is looking for photos, items of interest or newspaper clippings from years past, regarding church activities or what life was like for some of our early families who attended the New Maryland Kirk. How about submitting a story you remembered your grandparents telling you? Sue Morrison, Sharon Noel and Lydia LaPointe will be pleased to accept any submissions. All items will be returned to the owners. Thank you in advance for your help with this special project!**