

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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July 23, 2017 10:30 am  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. Grace and peace to you all.

## THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*“The simple fact that the church always has its share of hypocrites does not make the gospel hypocritical, nor does it destroy the integrity of God” – Thomas Long*

## THE GATHERING

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

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

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY**

**\*INTROIT Come Touch Our Hearts (#12 MV)**

**Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to see God in this community of seekers.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

**Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN VU#708 – My Lord, What a Morning**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**Holy One, you know us already. Help us to know you better.**

**Let us see you all around us. Fill our worship with your Spirit so that we may learn to recognize your presence in all places. Amen.**

**SOUL SEARCHING**

**Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short. We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant about the errors in our own lives and the injustices around us.**

**We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do. Forgive us.**

**Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**SOME TIME WITH EACH OTHER**

**\*HYMN MV#44 – Shadow and Substance**

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

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON(S):** Genesis 28: 10-19a

Psalm 139 Voices United page 861

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

**\*HYMN VU#227 – For the Fruit of All Creation**

**REFLECTION**

# THE RESPONSE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING & OFFERTORY Spirit of Life #381 VU

**Spirit of life, come unto me.**

**Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.**

**Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;**

**move in the land, giving life the shape of justice.**

**Roots hold me close; wings set me free;**

**Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

## DEDICATION

**Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given:  
our treasure, our time, and our lives.**

**Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### \*HYMN VU#264 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#### \*BENEDICTION

God's spirit is always with you.

**Wherever we go, God is there!**

If you ascend to heaven,

**God is there.**

If you settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**God is there.**

In all places, God holds you fast. May you know  
deeply the presence of God: Creator, Christ and  
Holy Spirit. Go with God.

### \*CHORAL BLESSING: Go, Make a Diff'rence (209 MV)

**Go make a diff'rence.**

**We can make a diff'rence.**

**Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff'rence.**

**We can make a diff'rence.**

**Go make a diff'rence in the world.**