

**NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

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Minister: Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Musical Director: Allan Morgan, B.Mus, J.D.
Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed, M.Ed.
Pulpit Supply: Heather Donnelly

September 17, 2017 11:00 am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation – Wilderness Sunday

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 world continually draws sustenance from decay...life's appearance of permanence is deceiving. – John Borows

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.

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

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

***INTROIT - Spirit of Life VU#381**

**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.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: We invite the wilderness to worship with us:

**All: thickets and rugged terrain,
Deep gorges and mountain ranges.**

One: We invite the marshlands to celebrate life:

**All: to lift their voices to our God
at the sound of rain in the mud.**

One: We invite the flora to sing in the sun:

All: ferns and thistle, brush and bristle.

One: We join with the fauna of the wilderness in praising God:

**All: salamanders and fogs,
waterfowl and hovering hawks.**

One: We invite the spirits of the wilderness to join us in praise:

**All: songs of ancient custodians deep in the rock,
spirits of life deep in the soils and the hills.**

One: Let us celebrate the song of the wilderness!

All: Sing, wilderness, sing!

***HYMN – VU#375 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

OPENING PRAYER

One: Marvelous Maker, we come into your presence
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**All: A planet pulsating with your presence,
a presence quivering in the forests,
a presence vibrating in the land,
a presence pulsating in the wilderness,
a presence shimmering in the rivers.**

One: God, reveal yourself to us in this place,
and show us your face in all creation.

All: Holy! Holy! Holy!

The whole Earth is filled with your glory.

SOUL SEARCHING

One: Awesome Creator, as we celebrate Wilderness Sunday we remember the
wild places on Earth, the wonder and mystery, the spirit of the
wilderness.

**All: Holy God, we regret that we have become alienated from Earth and
treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed, as a place to be**

ruled for our gain. We have polluted deserts with radioactive waste. We have torn holes in the ozone layer. We have desecrated sacred sites in the mountains. We have destroyed the homes of wild creatures and we are sorry.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SOME TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN MV#37 Each Blade of Grass**

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON(S): Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Psalm 29 Voices United page 756

Mark 1:9-13

ANTHEM “God’s Peace”

arr. C. J. Adams

REFLECTION

T H E R E S P O N S E

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & OFFERTORY VU#538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed
by the gifts that we give.**

DEDICATION

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on Earth. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 VU#384 The Lone, Wild Bird**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BLESSING: #884VU You Shall Go Out with Joy (2 times)**

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.**

**Today's prayers are adapted from a liturgy for Wilderness Sunday provided at
www.letallcreationpraise.org.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc@nb.aibn.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. Jane Johnson at 440-9981.

Greeters This Week: Nancy Jenkins

Trustees On Duty (Sept): Dave Ward and Jim Merrill

LOOKING AHEAD:

Mon., Sept. 18th - 8:00 am - NMUC goes to Christ Church Cathedral

Sat., Sept. 23rd - 9:00 am - NMUC goes to F'ton Community Kitchen

Tue., Sept. 26th - 7:00 pm - Official Board Meeting

Thur., Sept. 28th -12:00 noon – UCW Bridge Luncheon at Rec Centre

Sun., Oct. 15th – 4-6 pm – Salmon Supper (see below)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SALMON SUPPER

The Men's Club is looking forward to the continued support of the entire congregation for the annual **Salmon Supper on October 15th**. We will be looking for ticket sellers plus workers for both sittings. Those who would like to make apple crisp, call Dave Ward at 455-8208. And if you make your own pickles, would you consider putting aside a couple of jars for our supper? There will be a 'pickle box' at the main door if you'd like to drop off your pickles anytime. Also, any financial help would be appreciated which we can purchase potatoes, carrots, peas and other supplies.

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 /5.

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!

GREEN TIP - The next few weeks of “Green Tips” will highlight the storing of fresh fruits and vegetables. Generally speaking, it is best to store fruits at room temperature. If you want to slow down the ripening process, put it in the refrigerator. If you want something to ripen more quickly, put it in a tightly closed paper bag with a ripe banana, do not refrigerate.

The September issue of “*The Observer*” has arrived and is available for you to borrow from our library area.

New copies of “*Our Daily Breads*” (Sep/Oct/Nov) are now available at both entrances of the Church. These copies are provided free of charge, however, a container for those wishing to make a donation to Radio Price Class is available.

THANK YOU! The Parlee family wish to thank the congregation for all their support during Marilyn’s recent illness and passing. Thank you to all who visited, sent food, flowers, cards, and donations. Special thanks to Rev. Jane for the lovely church service, the choir, and the UCW for the lovely reception. We are so appreciative of all your kindness.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE - For the month of **September**, we will focus on **school snacks (puddings, fruit cups, granola bars, juice boxes)**. Please note that **school supplies** are also in need at this time. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.
