

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Minister: The Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div, D.Min      Office Administrator: Lorna Ball  
Supply Musician: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc, B.Th., M.Div

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023    11 am    LENT III  
The Lenten Journey Continues: Pondering The Mystery Of Jesus

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this sacred morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. 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:

*I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light.*

Barbara Brown Taylor

## THE GATHERING

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

## THE LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

## THE GATHERING & WELCOME

\*Introit: Gather Us In #7 MV

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Ground us, ground us, in you.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

Leader: And so our Lenten worship continues.

\*HYMN #371 Vu Open My Eyes

## **OPENING PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Leader:** The Lenten Season is upon us and our journey, our way of pilgrimage, continues:

**People:** The way of wilderness and encounter; the way of wonder and reckoning;

**Leader:** the way of fire and ash, of things seen and unseen.

**People:** Open our minds and our hearts, that we might be attentive to the gift and the challenge of the stories along the way.

**Leader:** Bless our intentions and our perseverance as we wrestle with the mystery of Jesus,

**People:** as together we travel the Lenten path.

**Leader:** As together we pray, 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 # 85 MV Take, O Take Me As I Am**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**CHILDREN'S HYMN # 85 MV Take, O Take Me As I Am**

## **T H E   W O R D   O F   G O D**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:1-17**

**SERMON: *The Stories We Tell In The Dark***

**\*HYMN #433 VU Day Is Done**

# THE RESPONSE

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY: These Lenten Gifts We Bring** (tune: #542)

These Lenten gifts we bring,  
our faith in act expressed.  
We offer them most lovingly,  
and pray their use be blessed.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*HYMN # 625 VU I Feel The Winds Of God**

**\*THE LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT**

**Leader:** Our Lenten journey continues, and slowly, the light fades....

*[The third purple candle is snuffed]*

and so we pray:

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy upon us. We sit at the edge of darkness, O God, our own, and the world's,

**and we try to find the words that we want to say, wrestling with the questions that keep us up at night.**

We hold so many conversations within our own hearts, O God, unable, unwilling, to let go of the worries that confine us,

**the fears that linger, the regrets that seem to grow with the years.**

But here we are, O God, gathered within the strength of community,

**And so together, we lay our burdens down...**

*.....A moment of quiet.....*

**The Assurance:** Remember O people, the One that breathed life into dust, that claimed you as Beloved, still calls to you, reminding you that you are forgiven, that there is nothing- *nothing* - that can separate you from God's love.

***Sung Response: (#95 MV)***

***How deep the peace, the confidence, of those whose wrongs are forgiven.***

***How deep the peace the confidence, of those whose hearts are healed.***

Amen and amen.

**\*CHORAL BLESSING: Stay With Us Through The Night (#182 VU, v.1)**

**Stay with us through the night  
Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger,  
Till the morning breaks again.**

*The bulletin today is dedicated by Krista Tupling in celebration of her mother, Diane Clowater's, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**E-Mail: [nmuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nmuc@nb.aibn.com)**

**Website: [www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://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.*

**Greeter This Week: Tina Glenn**

**Tellers This Week: Dorothy Webster and Linda Watson**

**Trustee On Duty (Mar): David Ward**

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Sun., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> - Worship Service – Lent IV**

**Tue., Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> – Lenten Conversations**

**Sun., Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> - Worship Service – Lent V**

**EASTER FLOWERS** – The Worship Committee is taking orders for Easter tulips, daffodils, and hydrangea. The purpose of this project is threefold: to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday; can be placed as memorials; or to take home or give to a friend or shut-in after the service. Cost is as follows: tulips & daffodils are \$15 each and hydrangea is \$25. To order your Easter flowers, contact Loraine Ward at 455-8208.

**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.

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### **MEN'S CLUB NEWS:**

**CHILI NIGHT** is being planned for **Wednesday, March 22.** Supper is being served at 6 pm. at the church. Meal consists of chili, (vegetarian and meat) garlic bread and a homemade dessert. The meal will be followed by entertainment compliments of Moon Joyce. A good will offering will be appreciated.

**YARD SALE** - The Men's Club in partnership with UCW will be having a **Yard Sale on Saturday May13th from 7:30 to 12:00** at the **New Maryland Rec Center.** You can drop off items on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 1- 8:00 pm. Please start putting things aside for this event. Unfortunately, no donations of clothing or electronics will be accepted. Further details to follow.

The **2023 Church envelopes** are on the table in the upper foyer for you to pick up. Only those who use their envelopes regularly have been issued new ones this year. In an effort to reduce our costs, those using PAR will not receive 2023 envelopes.

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### **Church Offering**

Anyone wanting a church envelope number (an annual tax receipt is issued for all contributions) or anyone interested in signing up for PAR (pre-approved remittance – where monthly contributions can be made to the church through your bank), please contact Sue Morrison (458-8150) or smorriso@unb.ca.

**DAILY BREADS** – New copies of “Our Daily Breads” (Mar/Apr/May) are now available in the main entrance. These copies are provided free of charge, however, a container is available for those wishing to make a donation to Radio Bible Class.

**NMUC LIBRARY** – Just a reminder that we have plenty of interesting books in our church library for anyone to borrow. There have been a couple of requests for “**large print**” novels for our library. If you have any at home or know someone who would like to donate some, we’d love to have them.

**JIGSAW PUZZLE LIBRARY** – Just a reminder that we have a lovely selection of jigsaw puzzles in the choir room. They are available to anyone who would like to borrow them. A great way to pass the time in the cold winter months. Donations of puzzles are greatly appreciated.

**NEW FUND-RAISER FOR M&S** sponsored by NMUC Sunday School: Toonie Calendar Clocks are here! Pick up your one-of-a-kind clock, personally decorated by Sunday School kids. Add a toonie on each of the indicated special occasions. These will be collected in November 2023. If you have any questions, contact Sheila Power at 506-292-4106.

The **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** would like to gauge the interest of the congregation to resume volunteering at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. If you are interested, please contact Emma Geneau to discuss scheduling. [emmag13@live.com](mailto:emmag13@live.com)

**GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE:**

Currently there is an urgent need for **kid-friendly snacks**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated

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## **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).

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## **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

**GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH** (183 Gibson St.) will be hosting a Stuffed Pork Loin Dinner (with all the trimmings) on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** from 4–6 pm. Tickets are \$15/adult. Please call 506-457-1951 to reserve your tickets.