

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
Choir Director: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc, B.Th., M.Div Supply Musician: Nathaniel Sergeant

March 24th, 2024 11 am.

PALM SUNDAY

The Stories We Carry: Lent VI: “A Garden Story”

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy 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 peace and friendship with its people. If you are visiting or new to the congregation please introduce yourself to Rev. Dr. Burke. Grace and peace to you all.

Thought for Meditation:

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe the lake far away, where once he walked as on a blue pavement, lay still and waited, wild awake. Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not keep that vigil, how they must have wept, so utterly human, knowing this too must be a part of the story.

Mary Oliver

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***INTROIT: Come Touch Our Hearts, #12 MV, v.1**

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**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us worship together!

***HYMN # 324 VU Jesus, Come To Our Hearts**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Our Lenten journey continues, O God. Our Forty Days - days of dimming light, and deeper attention;

People: Days of stories that lead us to Jerusalem.

Leader: Stories of funerals and miracles, water and storms, family and extravagance and tables. And today, a story of a night garden.

People: With characters that are ordinary and brave; Frightened and fascinating; people that speak their minds and those that disappoint.

Leader: People like... us.

People: And so we gather together here:

Leader: For this is the House for us ALL. And now as Jesus taught his companions, we 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 # 88 MV Over My Head, Refrain

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN: The Lenten Story Boxes

CHILDREN'S HYMN # 88 MV Over My Head, Refrain

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 14: 32-42

ANTHEM: *Winds Through The Olives*

Martin/Angerman

SERMON: *The Garden of Prayer and Disappointment*

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

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & OFFERTORY: (#581VU When We Are Living, v.2)

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving,

we belong to God, we belong to God.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from John Bell's hymn #642)

Leader: We do not take easily to confession, O God. It causes us unease.

People: But gathered here, with you, and one another, we offer up these things that weigh us down:

Leader: The words of hope I may fail to give; the prayers of kindness buried by my pride;

People: The signs of care I argue out of sight:

ALL: These I lay down.

Leader: The narrowness of vision and of mind,

People: And every word and silence meant to hurt,

ALL: These I lay down.

Leader: Of those around in whom I meet my Lord, I ask their pardon and I grant them mine.

People: Of those around in whom I meet my Lord, I ask their pardon and I grant them mine.

ALL: That every contradiction to Christ's peace, might be laid down.

Amen.

HYMN #372 VU Though I May Speak

***THE LITANY OF THE DIMINISHING LIGHT**

Leader: Our Lenten journey deepens, and the light continues to fade....

[The sixth purple candle is snuffed]

Just enough light to see that you are with us, still.

People: Near enough to hear you say, “Stay with me. Stay, through this coming week and all that lies ahead.”

Leader: It is usually the other way ‘round – with us asking that of you.

People: No easy thing.

Leader: Together then. Amen, and amen.

ALL SING (VU. 144, words adapted, K. Burke):

Were you there, when he asked them to stay near? (Were you there?)

Were you there, when he asked them to stay near?

Oh-oh-oh-oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there, when he asked them to stay near? (Were you there?)

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. Dr. Kelly Burke at 470-9634.

Greeter This Week: The Morrison Family

Teller This Week: Dorothy Webster and Jim Merrill

Trustee on Duty (Mar): David Ward

Please note that your Easter letter is available for pick up today.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Mon., Mar. 25th - 12:00 noon - Lenten Conversations (see below)

Thur., Mar. 28th - 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Potluck & Service

Fri., Mar. 29th - 10:00 am - Good Friday Service

Sun., Mar. 31st - 9:30 am - Easter Continental Breakfast

11:00 am - Easter Sunday

TO OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS: There will be a short **Official Board Meeting** (one agenda item to discuss a remit) following the service today. Hopefully everyone can attend.

LENTEN CONVERSATIONS: For our last gathering on **Monday, March 25th**, we will meet for lunch and conversation. Please arrive at the earlier time of **noon** for this last session. Just bring yourself – and your appetite – to: **100 Berkley Dr. in Forbes Subdivision of New Maryland.** Any questions etc., please call Kelly at **470-9634.**

MAUNDY THURSAY – Please come and join in for Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6 pm. We begin downstairs with a potluck supper and all the joy and conversation that goes on across tables. Then we move to the ‘Upper Room’ (sanctuary) for a ritual hand washing, sacred stories and a simple, pared down communion. We end by stripping the sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.

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!

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 mini kitchen (off the sanctuary). They are available to anyone who would like to borrow them. A great way to pass the time. Donations of puzzles are greatly appreciated.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE: For the month of March, we will focus on packaged cookies. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

M&S Fundraiser: The Sunday school has started its annual M&S fundraiser. This year, we have the Share-the-love jars! Please pick up a beautifully decorated jar and donate a toonie to the jar each time you show an act of kindness and share-the-love in the world. The goal is to raise at least \$30 in each jar. We will be collecting the jars in the fall. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.

Note of Thanks from the Men's Club - The Men's Club would like to thank everyone who turned out Wednesday night to their chili dinner. Sufficient monies were received that permitted us to donate \$300 to **York Sunbury Ground Search & Rescue for Project Life Saver**. Also thanks to Loraine, Janet & Lorna for the delicious desserts.

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). **6.**

