

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

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**Minister: Rev. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div Office Administrator: Lorna Ball**  
**Musical Director: Allan Morgan, B.Mus Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed**

**August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 10:30 am**  
**CELEBRATING THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**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 to Rev. Burke. Grace and peace to you all!**

## **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**

**\*INTROIT: #42 MV Praise God For This Holy Ground v.1**

**Praise God for this holy ground,  
Place and people, sight and sound.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God's goodness is eternal.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader: Water and people and anticipation are gathered in this place.**

**People: Joy and Spirit abound!**

**Leader: Then all is ready! Let us worship the Lord together!**

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

**On this day of sign and sacrament, of water and word; on this day of faith and family, of promise and praise: may we recognize your presence here O God, with us and amongst us.**

**And now we pray as our brother Jesus taught us, 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.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**\*HYMN#442 VU Wash O, God, Your Sons and Daughters**

### **Introduction to The Sacrament (From: *A Song of Faith*):**

In grateful response to God's abundant love,  
we bear in mind our integral connection  
to the earth and one another;

**we participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.**

To point to the presence of the holy in the world,

**the church receives, consecrates, and shares  
visible signs of the grace of God.**

In company with the churches  
of the Reformed and Methodist traditions,  
we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ:  
baptism and holy communion.

In these sacraments the ordinary things of life  
—water, bread, wine—  
point beyond themselves to God and God's love,  
teaching us to be alert  
to the sacred in the midst of life.

**Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
we are born into the brokenness of this world.  
Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
we are surrounded by God's redeeming love.**

Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity  
is the means by which we are received, at any age,  
into the covenanted community of the church.  
It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith  
and cleansing by the power of God.

**Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining,  
and transforming power of God's love  
and our grateful response to that grace.**

**The Presentation of the Candidate** – Sue Harris, the Clerk of Session:  
Jesus said: 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is  
to them that the kingdom of God belongs. And he took them up in his  
arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

On behalf of the congregation of New Maryland United Church, I  
present **Nolan Matthew Harris** for initiation into the body of Christ  
through Baptism.

### **Profession of Faith and Promises**

#### **Questions to Parents:**

Do you believe in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit/  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and by your actions?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you live in the knowledge and love of God, resisting evil, living with respect in creation, and loving and serving others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you continue to grow in faith, so that being strengthened by the Holy Spirit and nurtured at the Table of the Lord, you may go forth to serve God faithfully in the world?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**(Congregation will stand)**

As the congregation of New Maryland United Church, do you commit yourself to support and nurture **Nolan and his family**, within this community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

**We do, by the grace of God.**

**Prayer Of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you!**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Moses your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom, and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land.

You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the Jordan, and became Living Water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and sent them forth to baptize with water and the Spirit.

By your Holy Spirit O God, bless this water we pray. May it be a sign of new life in Christ. Amen.

### **The Act of Baptism**

#### **Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

#### **Marking with the sign of the cross:**

#### **Invocation of the Spirit:**

#### **Aaronic Blessing:**

#### **Declaration and Presentation to the Congregation**

**A Song For the Newly Baptized: *Nolan, God Claims You***

**Presentation of Certificate and Candle**

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

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: James 1:17-27**

**SERMON: *On Being James: Birth Order, Context, and Being Church***

**\*HYMN #333 VU Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

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

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY (#543 VU)**

**We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be,  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O God, from thee.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN#644 VU I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry  
BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BLESSING: Amen (#974 VU)**

**A-men! A-men! Hallelujah! A-men!  
A-men! A-men! Hallelujah! A-men!  
A-men! A-men! Hallelujah! A-men!**

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**Today we welcome the extended family and friends of Nolan Matthew Harris to our time of worship. Nolan, the son of Jennifer and Matthew Harris, and brother of Hudson, is being officially received into this family of faith through the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. Every blessing upon you today and always Nolan!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE BEACON:** All submissions for the next issue of the NMUC newsletter should be left at the church office or forwarded to [pklist@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pklist@nbnet.nb.ca) on or before **Tuesday, Sept. 8th.**

**U.C.W.** will meet on **Wed., Sept. 9th at 7 p.m.** in the home of Dorothy Webster, 215 Bradshaw Drive. We will be making plans for our Bridge Luncheon which will be held at the New Maryland Centre on Tuesday, October 27th. All women in the congregation would be very welcome to join us for our first meeting of the new season. Call Dorothy at 457-9795 for more details.