

# NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021    11 am  
Stories Along The Way: Lent II

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:

*The truth is that the witnessing, coded or open warnings and encouragement and political dissent communicated through today's urgent soundtrack characterize the whole of Black American music. From the oldest shout songs that surfaced on the Georgia coast to the spirituals that were revered after Emancipation, shared choruses documented brutality and exhorted people to resist. Jazz and blues songs that, to white listeners, seemed like good fun for dancing were news reports to those who knew how to listen.*

Shana L. Redmond

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

Introit: There Is Room For All, #62 MV

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;

There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, There is room for all.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you!

**People:** And also with you!

**Leader:** Let us worship together!

## **OPENING PRAYER (based on *Song of Faith*, 1.0)**

**Leader:** You, who are Holy Mystery, are beyond complete knowledge.

**People:** Yet, in love, you seek relationship.

**Leader:** And so you created the universe,

**People:** and with it the possibility of being and relating.

**Leader:** Companion us on this Lenten Way,

**People:** that we might see Christ in the stories we tell, and the songs we hear,

**Leader:** and in these words he 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 GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 14: 22-32**

**MUSIC:** *Steal Away To Jesus*

Wallace Willis

**SERMON:** *The Fourth Watch: Seeing Ghosts, Taking Heart and Staying Afloat*

**MUSIC:** *The Storm Is Passing Over* Charles A. Tindley

## **T H E   R E S P O N S E**

## **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# THE LENTEN PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: (Kyrie Eleison #67 MV)

## THE LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT

**Leader:** Our Lenten journey has begun, and the light begins to fade....

*[The first purple candle is snuffed]*

but there is light enough;

**People:** light enough to show us that every now and then,

Leader: every *glorious* now and then, a miracle does happen.

**People:** A wonder; a sign...

**Leader:** That amid the storms of life we get a glimpse, across the water, there in the dark, of the One who is among us still. Amen and amen.

**\*CHORAL BLESSING: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**      Wallace Willis

Swing low, sweet chariot,

Comin' for to carry me home;

Swing low, sweet chariot,

Comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan,

And what did I see,

Comin' for to carry me home,

A band of angels comin' after me,

Comin' for to carry me home.

*Refrain*

**Postlude: “Largo” from Dvorak’s *New World Symphony***