

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: Veronica Kallos RMT, B.Mus
Choir Director: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc., B.Th., M.Div.

March 19th, 2023 11 am LENT IV
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:

My biggest concern is to get at our ordinary truths, our daily truth, the things that connect us all, the shared weight of one another. We're all in this together.
Ada Limón

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 #79 MV Spirit, Open My Heart

OPENING PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lenten Season deepens 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, O God, to listen to one another, with curiosity and openness.**

Leader: Which is no easy thing. So bless our intentions and our perseverance as we wrestle with the mystery of Jesus, of life,

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: Luke 13: 1-9

ANTHEM: The Potter's Hand D. Zschech/L. Larson, arr.

SERMON: *On Casting Blame and Hearing Truth*

***HYMN #619 VU Healer Of Our Every Ill**

THE RESPONSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 # 147 VU What Wondrous Love Is This**

***THE LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT**

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

[*The fourth purple candle is snuffed*]

and so we pray:

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy upon us. We sit so comfortably, O God, with our own sense of the world: of what is right, and who is right.

Even though we have heard that we are to love one another.

Even though we have heard that love keeps no record of wrongs.

But we do, O God.

We do. Somehow the faults of others are so much easier to see.

And easier to acknowledge as wrong, than our own.

But such thinking weighs upon us, burdening our hearts.

We long to be free of it, but it is hard to let go.

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

And so together, let us 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. 3.

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 in loving memory of Myrtle Price (1926-1994) by her children Brian, Doug, Maxine, Philip and families.

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: Cynthia Geldart

Tellers This Week: Dorothy Webster and Linda Watson

Trustee On Duty (Mar): David Ward

LOOKING AHEAD:

Tue., Mar. 21st – 1:00 pm – Lenten Conversations

Sun., Mar. 26th – 11:00 am – Worship Service – Lent V

2:00 pm - Concert for Children “Four Seasons”

Wed., Mar. 29th - 6:00 pm - “Chili Night” (see over)

Sun., Apr. 2nd – 11:00 am - Worship Service – Palm Sunday

Sun., Apr. 9th – 11:00 am - Worship Service – Easter Sunday

Lenten Conversations – Mar. 21 & 28, Apr. 4: Join us at church at **1:00 pm** for an hour and a half-ish of conversation and reflection. We will use scripture stories of this season as our jumping off place, and will add in our own memories, our understandings, and our questions- which is to say our own sacred stories. We will carry on for 6 Tuesdays, but as the Angels always seem to say, "Fear Not" if you have to miss a week. While the weeks will link in their own way, they are all free standing. We will love to have you whenever you can participate!

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. **Today is last day to order your Easter flowers. See Lorna Ball or call Loraine Ward at 455-8208. Order is being placed tomorrow.**

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. There is now a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the foyer if you'd like to sponsor a bulletin for a particular day or contact Lorna Ball.

MEN'S CLUB NEWS:

CHILI NIGHT has been postponed one week ... until **Wednesday, March 29th**. Supper will be 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 by Moon Joyce. This supper is open to everyone in the congregation. Come and bring a friend! 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, May 13th from 7:30 to 12:00** at the **New Maryland Rec Center**. You can drop off items on Friday, May 12th 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.

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!

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

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE:

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

KIDS CLASSICS – Concert for Children will be held at New Maryland United Church on **Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 pm**. Music – “Four Seasons” Free entry.

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