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 Musician: Veronica Kallos

April 6th, 2025 11 am Lent V
The Lenten Journey With The Stories Of The Ancestors Continues
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

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:

I know you don't always understand, but... I can't help it. I will never get over making everything such a big deal. **Ada Limón**

T H E G A T H E R I N G

* WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT: <u>Spirit Open My Heart</u> #79 MV, Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

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 *A Song of Faith* 4.0)

Leader: We gather here, O God, on this day of sign and sacrament, water and word;
People: On this day of faith and family, ancient stories, promise and praise;

Leader: May we recognize your presence here O God, with us and amongst us. And together we pray the words that came through our brother Jesus, 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.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

<u>Introduction to The Sacrament</u> (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.

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

<u>The Presentation of the Candidate</u> – Tina Glenn, 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 **Alyssa Lois Ann Sellick** for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

<u>Profession of Faith and Promises</u>

Questions to Parents, Alicia and Scott Sellick:

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 and love, so that being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, you may go forth to serve God faithfully in the world?

I will, God being my helper.

Question to Godparent, Alana Nicklin: as Alyssa's Godparent, will you guide her, nurture her, and pray for her, as she grows into all that she can be?

I will, God being my helper.

Questions to Congregation

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

We do, by the grace of God

<u>Prayer Of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water</u>

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 Holy Spirit

Aaronic Blessing

Declaration and Presenting her to the Congregation

Presentation of Certificates and Candles

CHOIR: A Song For The Newly Baptized: *Alyssa, God Claims You*

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 12: 1-8

ANTHEM: *Water Flowing From The Mountains* **J.Hannah/D.Melhorn-Boe**

SERMON: *Nard, Loud Shoes, And Other Excesses Jesus Loves*

***HYMN#220 VU Praise To The Lord, The Almighty**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT

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

[*The fifth purple candle is snuffed*]

and so we pray: Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy upon us.

We sit with the stories of our ancestors O God, and we see how much has changed. And how little.

The way we are seen and understood; the way we are *misunderstood*; our actions misread, our motives questioned.

And it can all feel too much. Too much to carry. Too much to hold.

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, covenants with you still, reminding us that we are seen and known, that there is nothing- *nothing* - that can separate us from God's love. And so, in such confidence we go, each one to love and serve the world in our own unique way. Amen and amen.

<u>The Choral Blessing:</u> (#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.

Today we joyfully welcome Alyssa Lois Ann Sellick as she is baptized into this community of faith. Alyssa is the daughter of Alicia (Nicklin) and Scott Sellick; the little sister of Ethan; the granddaughter of Marcia and Kevin Nicklin, Sue Sellick, John Sellick and Leonora Sellick; and the great granddaughter of Ann Urquhart. Blessings abound!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc875@gmail.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: Loraine Ward
Tellers This Week: Dorothy Webster and Allen Grant
Trustee on Duty (Apr): Jim Merrill

The bulletin today is donated by Linda Watson.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Mon., Apr. 7th - 1:00 pm - Lenten Conversations (see below)
Sun., Apr. 13th - 11:00 am - Worship Service – Palm Sunday
Sacrament of Baptism
Mon., Apr. 14th - 12:00 noon - Lenten Conversations
Thur., Apr. 17th - 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper
Fri., Apr. 18th - 10:00 am - Good Friday Service
Sun., Apr. 20th - 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast
11:00 am - Easter Service

LENTEN CONVERSATIONS: Join as you can for 6 weeks of conversations. Sacred Stories we are told, and the Sacred Stories we tell, as humans and as community. Beginning Monday, March 10th - 1:00-2:30 pm at church.

SPRING YARD SALE – The **NMUC Yard Sale** will take place on **Saturday, May 3, 2025** at the **New Maryland Centre**. Hours of the sale are **8:00 to 12:00.** Items can be dropped off at the Centre on **Friday, May 2** between **1pm and 8pm**. All items, **excluding** clothing and larger electronic items such as televisions, would be accepted. Items requiring

pick up by truck, or if the delivery of items is not possible for you, arrangements can be made for pick up on the Friday before the sale. **In order to make this fundraiser a success, we need your help in pricing, organizing the items, monitoring sales, and assisting with any pickups. NMUC Sunday School will be holding a canteen to raise funds for their projects as well.** The monies received from this fundraiser will be used towards the local operating budget. If interested in helping out with this event or if you need items picked up, please contact Keith at **(506)455-1948** or Dave at **(506) 455-8208**.

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 - We have a wonderful assortment of books in our little library. Recently we have acquired a collection of books by NB writers, like Peter Clark and the brothers Wayne and Herb Curtis from the Miramichi. There's folk lore and novels and walking guides, all celebrating our province...come have a look!

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 **April,** we will focus on **canned pasta sauce.** However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH – Low income Tax Clinic – at Forest Hill United Church (45 Kimble Ct.) **- Fridays, April 4, 11, & 25 from 9:30 am to 1 pm.** See bulletin board in foyer for more info.