

**ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
**130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017, 9:00 am**

**Easter 4**

**Welcome & News of the Community**

**Music: "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" VU #395**

**Refrain:**

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R

God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R

## Basket of Blessings

### Gathering Words:

One: Bring us together, O God, as a shepherd gathers the flock.

**All: Your care for us is wholehearted.**

One: Sustain us, O God, in the testing situations of life.

**All: Your strength is our endurance.**

One: Keep us faithful, O God, when we feel alone.

**All: Your friendship is expressed through your people.**

### Music:

#### “Are You a Shepherd”

MV #126

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
safely through danger, while calming our fears?

Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

#### Refrain:

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
but you are greater than all that we know.*

*Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?

Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
challenging students to offer their best? R

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
lead all your children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight. R

## Children's Time

## Sharing the Story:

## Psalm 23

### Focus on the Word

### Music:

### "Psalm"

VU p. 747

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me,  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou has furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

### Prayer in Action

### Affirmation:

**We hear your voice, O God, calling us to action: to speak out for the needy, to affirm the seekers, to comfort the distressed, to**

**encourage the downhearted, to challenge the complacent. We are your people, the sheep of your pasture.**

**Music:**

**“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”**

**VU #633**

Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.

The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors,  
whose love sustains the day.

We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise  
where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.