

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 16, 2017 – 11:00 am

### Easter Day Holy Communion

\* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

#### Gathering

\* Clergy and Choir Enter

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ and Outreach Candles

\* Fanfare (Choir & Brass)

\* Call to Worship:

One: At the first light of dawn, the women went to the graveside.

All: **Are not our hearts burning within us?**

One: And there they found.... nothing?

All: **Are not our hearts lighted with fire?!**

One: An empty tomb! The grave-clothes lying on the ground!  
Where is Jesus?

All: **Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Amen!**

\* Opening Hymn: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" VU #155

Opening Prayer:

God of new life, we stand in awe of the miracles you have poured out upon us. We witness the miracle of the turning of the seasons, of spring pushing aside the snow to make room for flowers. We witness the miracle of your love for humankind, shown in Jesus' death and resurrection, of the warmth of love melting the apathy in our hearts. We witness the miracle of resurrection, of our liberation from the fear of

judgement and death. We cannot earn these miracles, but you have given them to us as a gift. We cannot perform these miracles ourselves, but you are faithful. You always bring about spring after winter. You always love us. You always free us from our fears. Thank you, God of new life. May we bring these miracles into the lives of others. Amen.

#### Listening

Hymn: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" VU #179

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-8

Anthem: "Resurrection Proclamation"

Sermon: Encounters on the Road:  
Mary Magdalene

#### Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

\* Offertory: "Praise God from Whom  
All Blessings Flow" VU #541

Prayer of Dedication: (All)

**O God, you have become our light and our salvation – let these gifts open the gates of joy to all who hunger and thirst for your holy presence on this and every day. May they bear the gifts of Hallelujah which we hold so dear, and give away with great joy. We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen.**

Prayers of the People

\* Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" VU #468

#### Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: ... and joining your unending hymn:

***Sanctus: (All)***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Consecration**

**Invitation**

**Fraction and Distribution**

**Prayer after Communion**

**\* Hymn of Dismissal:** "We Know That Christ is Raised" VU #448  
(v3-Choir only)

**\* Commissioning:**

One: Do not look for the risen Jesus only here, in the confines of  
this church building.

**All: We will seek the risen Jesus on the roads and in the  
streets, in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**

One: Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the  
unfamiliar –

**All: We know that Resurrection makes all things new!**

One: Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus,  
and Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good  
News:

**All: Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before  
us!**

One: Christ is Risen indeed!

**All: Hallelujah and Amen!**

**Music as We Depart**