

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 22, 2017 – 11:00 am

Reformation Sunday

* 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

Introit: "Gather Us In" MV #7

* Call to Worship:

One: God is our dwelling place from year to year, age to age.
And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are.
God reforms us

All: and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

One: God's life surges forth through creation, like grass that
renews every morning. And yet we prefer to be dust,
swept away in the wind of every new idea and new fad.
God reforms us

All: and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

One: God turns to us, and has compassion on us, so the great
work of our lives manifests Christ's glorious love to the
world. God reforms us

All: and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

* Opening Prayer:

Wondrous God, thirteen billion years ago your creative spark called creation into being. Two thousand years ago you lit a spark of new creation in Christ. Five hundred years ago, your grace reignited the hearts of men and women with names like Martin and Kate Luther, John Calvin, Katharina Zell, and Ulrich Zwingli. Just when we think all is settled, everything is finished, your power and presence explodes on to the scene again, bringing newness, bringing life.

Fill us with your power and presence, O God, so we may, like our grandparents in faith, carry your truth, your beauty, and your justice to the world you so love—a world in such need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

* Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" VU #334

Prayer of Confession: (All)

Living God, you are the One who is always on the move, always creating and re-creating, always doing a new thing. And yet, we confess, God, that our lives can become static, paralyzed by doubt and fear. We remain stuck in patterns of greed, covetousness, and self-interest. We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life, and we live separated from our friends, our neighbours, and our enemies.

Our souls remain still. We do not love as you love.

Nor do we live as you would have us live, with courage, generosity and the boldness of the gospel. So in the silence of our hearts, we offer up to you those things we have done and those we have left undone. *(short silence)* Forgive us, O God. Renew us by your Spirit, and reform us with your compassion, remaking us more fully into the image of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

Friends, the good news of the gospel is that God's love in Christ stretches so deep and so wide that it infiltrates every broken place in our hearts and in our world.

Our hatred is met with love, our cruelty is met with compassion, our sins and our trespasses are met with forgiveness. Open your hearts to let the love of God in, because in Christ you are forgiven, freed, made new. Believe in this great good news. Amen.

Listening

Minute for Mission

* Hymn: "Like A Rock" MV #92 (X2)

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings: Psalm 46 VU p. 770
Luke 6:46-49

Anthem: "The Mighty One"

Sermon: **Like A Rock**

* Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" VU #262

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

* Offertory: "Grant Us, God, the Grace" VU #540

* Offertory Prayer:

Receive these gifts, O God, use them to reform this community of faith as you remake the world in your image. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

* Hymn: "For All the Saints" VU #705

* Commissioning: *(words attributed to John Wesley)*

One: Go out into the world, living in the light of Christ! By the power of the Spirit do all the good you can,

Left: **by all the means we can,**

Right: *in all the ways we can,*

Left: **in all the places we can,**

Right: *at all the times we can,*

Left: **to all the people we can,**

All: **As long as ever we can.**

One: And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be yours this day, and forever. Amen.

Choral Blessing: "Go Make a Difference" MV #209
(refrain only)

Music as We Depart