

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 3, 2017, 11:00 am

Advent 1

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Clergy and Choir Enter

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony:

One: Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

One: Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

One: Advent is a time to renew our determination.

All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

One: Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

Candle Lighting

* Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" VU #2, v1

Prayer: (All)

Gracious God, we thank you for the promise of the scripture that through Christ, we have hope. Forgive our lack of faith and restore in our hearts the assurance that your love can conquer the tyranny of injustice in a broken world. We pray today that you would strengthen our faith in your mercy and righteousness, so we can live in hope every day of our lives. Amen.

* Hymn: "Come to My Heart" VU #661

* Advent Litany:

All: Wise Ones from the East, where are you going? Can we go too?

R1: We have seen an amazing star. It shines brighter than any other star.

R2: *We're going to follow this star and see where it takes us. We think it will lead us to a child who will soon be born, a child of God who will change the world.*

R1: We have faith that God will show us the way. We have great hope that our quest will be successful.

R2: *And yes, you can come with us.*

All: Thank you, Wise Ones, for your faith and your gift of hope. We will join you on this Advent adventure.

Listening

Children's Hymn: "A Candle Is Burning" VU #6, v1

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-14, 18-20

Anthem: "O Come, Emmanuel"

Sermon: Zechariah's Visitor

* Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" VU #18

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts and Food Bank Donations

* **Offertory:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" VU #55, v4

* **Prayer of Dedication: (All)**

**Through these gifts may we be agents of hope in your world;
lifting people up in love so that they can experience an
abundant future. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

* **Hymn:** "May the God of Hope Go With Us" VU #424

* **Commissioning:**

One: As we enter into this season of waiting,

All: may we find the warmth of faith.

One: As we enter this season of hoping,

All: may we find holy space.

One: As we enter this season of spending,

**All: may we find ways to offer our spirits to the life of the
world.**

One: Go with the blessing of God, the bursting of the Spirit, and
the love of the Child. Amen.

* **Choral Amen**

Music as We Depart