

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

Sunday, December 3, 2017, 9:00 am

Advent 1

Welcome & News of the Community

Basket of Blessings

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

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.

(The First Candle of Advent is lit)

Music:

"Hope is a Star" – v1

VU #7

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

Prayer:

We come on this first Sunday of Advent, to begin the journey toward Christmas, preparing our hearts and our homes to welcome God's child. Help us to trust, listen, and believe as we live the miracle that you have come into our lives and into our world. We come, O God, we come. Amen.

Music: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33 (X2)

Jesus came bringing us hope
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us peace
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us love
Jesus came bringing us love,
Jesus came bringing us love,
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us joy
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
hallelujah forever more!

Children's Time

Sharing the Story: Luke 1:5-15a, 18-20

Focus on the Word

Music:

“Come To My Heart”

VU #661

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
Answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

We know what time it is, God. We await your coming with impatience, but also with apprehension. There seems to be so much to do and plan, so many places to go and so many people to see. We regret the excess, waste and foolishness all around us. Remind us that while the day is near, the time is now – time to be open and thankful, time to enjoy the anticipation, time to welcome Christ into our lives again. Amen.

Music: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” VU #2

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.