

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17, 2017, 11:00 am

Advent 3 White Gift Sunday

* 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 marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

All: **With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**

One: Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.

All: **With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**

One: Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

All: **With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**

One: Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

All: **With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**

Candle Lighting

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

Prayer: (All)

Gracious God, remind us today and every day that we have good reason to be joyful, and forgive us for focusing our

minds on negative things. Because you sent your Son into the world we can truly celebrate this season of wonder. Fill our hearts with calm assurance so that we might be messengers of peace who joyfully spread your love wherever we go. Amen.

* Hymn: "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" VU #28

Advent Litany:

All: **Mary and Joseph, where are you going? Can we go too?**

R1: We're walking to Bethlehem. We've been asked to be the earthly parents of God's child.

R2: *This will be the hardest thing we've ever done. It's scary. It's hard to believe, and some of our family and friends still don't believe, but that's okay.*

R1: What an amazing, joyful opportunity we have. We get to be the first to welcome God's son to the world.

R2: *We get to love him and care for him. Yes, please come with us and help us welcome our child.*

All: **Thank you, Mary and Joseph, for your faith and your gift of joy. We will join you on this Advent adventure.**

Listening

Children's Hymn: "A Candle Is Burning" VU #6, vss 1, 2 & 3

CHRISTMAS HELPERS Sunday School

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Meditation: "Mary's Treasure Box"

* Hymn: "What Child Is This?" VU #74

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

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

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

We are getting ready, Jesus. We're preparing for your birth by trying to live our love. Please bless our gifts, and use them to make a difference in the world. Amen.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" VU #48

*** Commissioning:**

One: And now, into a waiting world we go, waiting for the birth of that Child who will change the world,

All: waiting for the spirit of Christmas to descend, finding, in the midst of all the activity, a quiet place to pray,

One: hoping for the peace the season promises, and knowing that, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, God is in charge and comes to us in love. To hold us and keep us all our days.

All: Amen.

*** Choral Amen**

Music as We Depart

The meditation "Mary's Treasure Box" is based on the book, Mary's Treasure Box by Carolyn Walz Kramlich, (Thomas Nelson, 1998)