

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

Sunday, December 17, 2017, 9:00 am

Advent 3
White Gift Sunday

Welcome & News of the Community

Basket of Blessings

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

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

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

Right: 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 OK.

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

Right: 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.

(The First, Second and Third Candles of Advent are lit)

Music: "Hope is a Star" – vss 1, 2 &3

VU #7

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

Refrain:

*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.*

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. **R**

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. **R**

Prayer:

We come on this second Sunday of Advent, still on the journey toward Christmas, preparing our hearts and our homes to welcome the Christ child. Help us to find quiet times to contemplate 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 Joy" MV #33 (X2)

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

Christmas Helpers

Sharing the Story: Luke 2:8-20

Focus on the Word

Music: "A Candle is Burning", vss. 1, 2 &3 VU #6

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

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.

Music:

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

VU #48

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **R**