

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 2017, 11:00 am

Advent 4

Service of Lessons and Carols

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Leaders and Choir Enter

Welcome and Announcements / Minute for Stewardship

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony:

One: Advent is a time to celebrate God's love.

All: God's love is pure.

One: We celebrate by loving our neighbours as ourselves.

All: God's love is everlasting.

One: We celebrate by loving the Lord our God with all our hearts.

All: God's love is all-powerful.

One: We celebrate by spreading God's love to a world in need.

All: God's love is freely given to all.

Candle Lighting: (Leader)

Today we light four candles – the candle of hope, the candle of peace, the candle of joy, and the candle of love. The light of this fourth candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, and that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life. And God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but to love the world, and to set it free.

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

Prayer: (All)

Gracious God, as we ponder your great and eternal love, we think of our own limited understanding. We think of the words of Nelson Mandela: "People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love." Teach us to love as you have loved, and help us learn to share that love with the world around us. Amen.

Lessons and Carols

Introductory Reading

Carol: "Once in Royal David's City"

(solo) 1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

(All) 2. **He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

3. **And through all His wond'rous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.**
4. **For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.**
5. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

1st Lesson: *God announces in the
Garden of Eden that the seed of
woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Choir: **"Emmanuel"**
by A. Pote

2nd Lesson: *God promises to faithful
Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Choir: **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**
by K. Tomerson

3rd Lesson: *Christ's birth and kingdom
are foretold by Isaiah.*

Carol: **"The First Nowell"**

1. **The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:**

Refrain: *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

2. **They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth, it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:**

Refrain

3. **And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:**

Refrain

4. **Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath brought:**

Refrain

4th Lesson: *The peace that Christ
will bring is foreshown.*

Choir: **"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**
by R. Willis

5th Lesson: *The angel, Gabriel,
salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Carol: **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"** VU #36

(The offering will be collected during the singing of this carol.)

6th Lesson: *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Choir: **“How Quietly”**
by J. Raney

7th Lesson: *The shepherds go to the manger.*

Carol: **“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”** VU #75

8th Lesson: *The wise men are led
by the star to Jesus.*

Choir: **“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”**
arr. J. Raney

9th Lesson: *St. John unfolds the great mystery
of the Incarnation.*

Carol: **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** VU #48

Celebrating

Blessing & Benediction

Postlude

Participating in Today’s Service:

Leaders of WorshipMarion Buchan and Peter Oleskevich
Music Director/OrganistKen Hassell
InstrumentalistsGlenn Bishop, Cynthia Bruce,
Marilyn Whiteway
ReadersBetty Curry, Ernie Draper, Ian Godfrey,
Gail Gordon, Helen Hansford,
Frank Maxwell, Grace Oleskevich,
Karina Oleskevich, Dorothy Robbins
Kings Point-to-Point Greeter Jean Millett/Joy Waterbury
GreeterIan Godfrey
Hospitality OVUC Choir
Tellers Heather Bishop, tba
Projectionist Sylvia Jacquard

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated at both services on
Epiphany Sunday, January 7th.**

This week’s bulletin is sponsored
in memory of
Vernon MacDonald
with love from wife Mary and family