

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 2017, 9:00 am

Advent 4
Christmas Eve Morning

Welcome & News of the Community

Basket of Blessings

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

All: Shepherds, where are you going? Can we come too?

Left: We're rushing off to Bethlehem. The angels came and told us that a baby was born.

Right: Not just any baby, but God's baby, Jesus. This baby is God's gift of hope and peace, joy and love for the whole world.

Left: The angels will watch the sheep, but we've got to go. There's no time to waste. We're so excited!

Right: We're filled with joy! We can't wait to see this baby, Jesus. Yes, you can come with us, but you have to hurry!

All: Thank you, shepherds, for your faith and your gift of love. We will join you on this Advent adventure.

(Candles of Advent are lit)

Music:

“Hope is a Star”

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**

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart. **R**

Prayer:

We come on this last 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:

“Away in a Manger”

VU #69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Sharing the Story: Luke 2: selected

Carols

Prayers

Music: "Silent Night" VU #67

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.