

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 18, 2018, 11:00 am

Lent 1

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Clergy and Choir Enter

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ and Outreach Candles

* **Introit:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU #374, v1

* Call to Worship:

One: Our Lenten journey calls us to venture along the rocky road of challenge and blessing.

All: We are guided by ancestors who led with compassion and faithfulness.

One: We follow Jesus Christ, who is our teacher and companion.

All: Jesus is our example and friend. Thanks be!

* **Hymn:** "Spirit, Open My Heart" MV #79

Prayer of Confession:

One: It's the first Sunday of Lent, God, your time to help us get ready for Holy Week and Easter. We think of those who turned away from Jesus during his earthly ministry.

All: And we remember that we, too, turn away.

One: Jesus healed many who were sick in mind, body or spirit. Only a few returned to give thanks.

All: We realize that we have taken God's gifts for granted... That our lives have lacked gratitude. Our lack of gratitude shields the light of Christ from us and others.

One: We extinguish the first candle, confessing our own failure to give thanks to God.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: As the shadows gather, God has good news for each one. "You are loved. You are forgiven." God is good.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Listening

Minute for Mission

Hymn: "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" VU #570

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Anthem "By Faith"

Sermon: Your Debts Are Paid!

* **Hymn:** "There's A Wideness in God's Mercy" VU #271

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

* **Offertory:** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" VU #544

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Bless the gifts that we offer. Bless we who offer them. Bless those who will be touched, in turn. May this circle of blessings be pleasing in your sight, O God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” VU #664

*** Commissioning:**

One: Leave here to begin your Lenten journey.

All: We will listen for God’s call; we will respond with the commitment Jesus made clear; we will endure the hard places and the struggle; we will rejoice in the victory that lies beyond the cross.

One: Go in peace, to love and serve God. Amen.

*** Choral Response:** “Simeon’s Blessing”

Music as We Depart