

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 11:00 am

### Lent 4

\* 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: God of love and life; we come this day laying before you that which is dried out and lifeless.

**All: Give us new life, God.**

One: We come seeking hope for that which is in shadow and despair.

**All: Give us new hope, God.**

One: We come seeking a new vision, for the way we have been walking is hard and we are weary.

**All: Give us new purpose, O God. Amen.**

\* **Hymn:** "O God, How We Have Wandered" VU #112

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: It's the fourth 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: Throughout the life of Jesus, it's clear that the disciples never really "get it." They are unable to hear with their hearts the radical message of love that Jesus brings.

**All: We, like the disciples, often close our hearts to Jesus' message of love. We find it hard to forgive. We hold onto anger and prejudice. Darkness engulfs us.**

One: We extinguish the fourth candle, admitting our own lack of love and our closed hearts.

**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:** "I Danced in the Morning" VU #352

**Children's Focus**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 81 VU p. 796  
Luke 14:1, 7-11

**Special Music**

**Sermon: A Place That Outshines the Sun**

**\* Hymn:** "Shall We Gather at the River" VU #710

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

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

#### **\* Offertory Prayer:**

**You have blessed us with great abundance, O God. You have called us to be a blessing to others. May the giving of these gifts and the sharing of hearts and lives show that your covenant promises are living among us. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn:** "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU #424

#### **\* Commissioning:**

One: The love of God has been written on our hearts.

**All: The Word of God has been carved into our souls.**

One: The will of God has become our life's desire.

**All: Let us go to be and to become the Good News of God for the world. Amen.**

### **Music as We Depart**