

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 9, 2017 – 11:00 am

Palm Sunday

* 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: "All Glory, Laud & Honour" VU #122, v1

Proclamation of Praise:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God! Blessed are we, for we have been created by that same God. Blessed is the sound of our voices, lifted up in praise, blessed are the hands that clap and strum and pluck, joining together in a glorious song of praise. Blessed are the bodies that move and wave and march and dance in a tapestry of motion, embodying our lives. Blessed is the breath that enlivens us, animates us, and sustains us in singing our ceaseless praise to you, O God! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hymn: "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" VU #357

Prayer of Confession:

Sometimes, God, fear eats away at our faith. It's easy to sing Hosanna here this morning, when we're together. It's harder to be your people when folks around us don't know You. Help us to walk away from that fear, God. We want to stand

strong and true to our convictions. Like Jesus, we want to faithfully walk the path you set, even if it means great sacrifice. God, we want to conquer the fear that keeps us from honouring you.

Assurance of Pardon:

Jesus did not go to the cross for saintly people. Jesus died for the crowds who welcomed him on Sunday and shouted, "Crucify Him!" on Friday. Jesus died for you and me, who are afraid to be faithful. He died so we can be set free. Sin is powerless. Death cannot hold us. Go, and live boldly in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reception of Members

Listening

Hymn: "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!" VU #123

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Anthem: "Ride On, King Jesus"

Sermon: **Encounters on the Road to the Cross:
A Woman of Bethany**

Hymn: "When They Heard" MV #128

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

* Offertory: "Praise God From Whom
All Blessings Flow" VU #541

Offertory Prayer:

May these gifts be more than 30 pieces of silver. Instead of blood money that destroys, may you, O God, bless our offerings as life-blood for the world, helping to heal brokenness and to bring new life to others. Amen.

Prayers of the People

* **Hymn of Dismissal:** "Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!" VU #127

* **Commissioning:**

One: Jesus Christ... over the broken glass of our world, the rumours meant to hurt, the prejudice meant to wound, the weapons meant to kill, ride on... trampling our attempts at disaster into dust, ride on.

All: Ride on in majesty.

One: ... over the distance which separates us from you, and it is such a distance, measurable in half-truths, in unkept promises, in second-best obedience, ride on... until you touch and heal us, who feel for no one but ourselves. Ride on.

All: Ride on in majesty.

One: ... through the back streets and the taverns, and the forgotten corners of our town, where human life festers and love runs cold, ride on... bringing hope and dignity where most send scorn and silence, ride on.

All: Ride on in majesty.

One: For you, O Christ, do care, and will show us how. On our own, our ambitions rival your summons and threaten good faith and neglect God's people. In your company and at your side, we might yet help to bandage and heal the wounds of the world... ride on.

All: Ride on in majesty, Jesus, and take us with you.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.

* **Choral Closing: (All)** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" VU #212

Music as We Depart