

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

**Sunday, January 7, 2018, 9:00 am**

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**The Holy Sacrament of Communion**

**Welcome & News of the Community**

**Music:** "As With Gladness", vss. 1,2,3

**VU #81**

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with eager pace  
ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

## Basket of Blessings

### Gathering Words:

One: God calls us from wherever we live and work and play.

**All: Here we are, God!**

One: God shares with us love, grace and forgiveness.

**All: Here we are, God!**

One: Welcome to the worship of God!

**All: Here we are, God! Thanks be to God!**

**Music:** "Jesus, Our Brother", vss. 1,2,3,6

**VU #56**

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
'I carried the mother uphill and down,  
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;  
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

'I,' said the cow, all white and red,  
'I gave him my manger for his bed,  
I gave him hay to pillow his head;  
I,' said the cow, all white and red.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,  
in the stable dark were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

## Children's Time

**Sharing the Story:** Matthew 2:1-12

## **Focus on the Word**

**Music:** “Will You Come and See the Light”, vss. 1,4,5 **VU #96**

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: ... and joining your unending hymn:

## **Sanctus: (All)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Consecration**

## **Invitation**

## **Fraction and Distribution**

## **Prayer after Communion**

## **Affirmation:**

**One:** Go from this church as those who have seen the Bethlehem star.

**All:** **We will follow our most cherished dream and bring it to reality; we will give of our most precious gifts, to advance the Way of Jesus; we will resist the Herods of our time, who seek to delay and sabotage.**

**One:** Return joyfully to your own home and proclaim by word and deed that justice and compassion rule, and that death is eternally defeated.

**Music:** **“The First Nowell”, vss. 1,2,5**

**VU #91**

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked 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. **R**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**