

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

Sunday, February 18, 2018, 9:00 am

Lent 1

Welcome & News of the Community

Music: “What A Friend We Have in Jesus” VU #664

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Basket of Blessings

Gathering Words:

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!

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.**

Music: **“Jesus’ Hands were Kind Hands”** **VU #570**

Jesus' hands were kind hands,
doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness,
blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and
saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands,
doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus,
let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle,
kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus,
till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands,
quick to work for you.

Children’s Time

Sharing the Story: **Luke 17:11-19**

Focus on the Word

Music:

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

MV #79

Refrain:

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that’s kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. **R**

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. **R**

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. **R**

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

One: Leave here to begin your Lenten journey. Remember to be thankful.

All: We will listen for God’s call; we will respond with thanks and praise; 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.

Music:

“Let All Things Now Living”

VU #242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.