

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

Sunday, March 4, 2018, 9:00 am

**Lent 3**

**Welcome & News of the Community**

**Music:**

**“Let Us Build A House”**

**MV #1**  
**(vss. 1,2,5)**

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain:**

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek  
to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God’s grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **R**

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **R**

**Refrain:**

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**Basket of Blessings**

**Gathering Words:**

One: We have gathered to worship God.

**All: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community and insight.**

One: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**All: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: It's the third 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: We will never understand Judas's betrayal. All we know is that Judas thought that his agenda was more important than Jesus.

**All: We too are often unwilling to put our agenda and priorities ahead of the Light of the World.**

One: We extinguish the third candle, recalling with regret the times we have betrayed Jesus by the darkness of our own self-centered willfulness.

**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 Loves Me" **VU #365**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
in his love we shall be strong.

**Refrain:**

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, 'Let them come to me.' **R**

Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give  
light and love to all who live. **R**

**Children's Time**

**Sharing the Story:** Mark 14:3-11

**Focus on the Word**

**Music:**

**“I Danced in the Morning”**

**VU #352**

(vss 1,2)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

**Refrain:**

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the dance went on. **R**

**Prayer in Action**

**Affirmation:**

**We go from this place secure in God's love, ready to feed the hungry, ready to comfort those who mourn, ready to welcome the stranger, ready to free the imprisoned, ready to find the lost, ready to see Christ in our sisters and brothers. We go in faith that God goes with us. Amen!**

**Music:**

**“Bless Now, O God, The Journey”**

**VU #633**

(vss 1,2)

Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.

The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors,  
whose love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.