

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

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 9:00 am

Lent 4

Welcome & News of the Community

Music: “O God, How We Have Wandered” VU #112

O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.

But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.

In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.

Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Basket of Blessings

Gathering Words:

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.

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.**

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.

*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.'

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

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

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

Children's Time

Sharing the Story: **Mark 14:43-50**

Focus on the Word

Music:

“I Danced in The Morning”

VU #352
(vss. 1,3)

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 on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. **R**

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

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:

“May the God of Hope Go With Us”

VU #424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. **R**