

CELEBRATION OF A COVENANT



Sunday, September 23, 2018

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 23, 2018, 3:00 pm

Celebration of a Covenant Between Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge, Rev. Don Sellsted, and Valley Presbytery of the United Church of Canada

Prelude

Gathering

Clergy & Choir Enter

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: We are called to be the church, to love God, and serve others.

All: **We gather as sisters and brothers in Christ, praising God's faithfulness, embracing each other in God's love, committed to acting out that love in God's world.**

One: We worship God in joy, in expectation and in hope.

All: **We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Presence, you have led us to this moment in time, reassuring us when we face uncertainty, prodding us into action when we become hesitant and fearful, and comforting us when we are in the midst of change, both great and small. May we be aware of the ways in which faith is a constant journey, a pathway on which we seek new meaning and new opportunities to experience God, knowing that God will be with us wherever we go. Amen.

* Hymn:

"Let Us Build a House"

MV #1

Service of the Word

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

One: May God bless to our understanding the reading of this scripture.

All: Amen.

Anthem: "Celebration of Joy"

Sermon: Rev John Moses

Presentation of Offering

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Covenanting Action

Presbytery Presider:

In Jesus, God came into the world not to be served but to serve. By our baptism we are called to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. As we prepare to make commitments to one another now let us join in a statement of our communal faith, saying together

A New Creed

VU #918

*** Hymn:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" **VU #575**

Congregational Presider:

I present the Rev. Don Sellsted, who has been appointed to the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments and Pastoral Care within this Congregation. We believe Don is well qualified and has been lawfully and prayerfully selected.

Presbytery Presider:

Don, you are here in response to the invitation of the Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge and by the action of the Valley Presbytery. We come together to make a new relationship between you, the Congregation and the Presbytery. May the God, who has given us the will to do these things, give us the humility and grace to perform them. Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, in our baptism we covenanted to be one family of God's people in ministry to each other and to God's world; gift us now with your Holy Spirit as we commit ourselves to work together in Christ's name. Amen.

PROMISES OF THE NEW MINISTER:

Presbytery Presider:

Don, do you in the presence of this congregation commit yourself to these new responsibilities?

New Minister Responds:

I will, by the grace of God. I have come to share the life of this congregation, to minister and be ministered to, to learn and to encourage learning, to challenge, and to be challenged.

Presbytery Presider:

Will you accept the discipline of Valley Presbytery, and together with its other members, be responsible for the oversight of the Church's life?

New Minister Responds:

I will, by the Grace of God.

PROMISES OF THE ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE:

Presbytery Presider:

Will the people of Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge please stand. Don has been invited as an Ordained Minister to serve among you. He will need your support and encouragement.

As people of the Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge, you and Don will serve together. The work of the church requires active cooperation and good will from its people. On behalf of Valley Presbytery, I ask you, will you accept your Christian calling in this place and in the world?

Pastoral Charge Responds:

Yes, we will, with the help of God.

PROMISES OF VALLEY PRESBYTERY:

Presbytery Presider:

The members of Valley Presbytery, please stand. Will you, the Members of Valley Presbytery, encourage Don as he assumes his responsibilities?

Members of Presbytery Respond:

Yes, we will, with the Grace of God.

Presbytery Presider:

Will you support and encourage this Pastoral Charge in their work and witness?

Members of Presbytery Respond:

Yes, we will, with the Grace of God.

Presbytery Presider:

Members of Valley Presbytery, please come forward and welcome Don.

*** Hymn:**

“Called by Earth and Sky”

MV #135

Presentation of Symbols

A BIBLE

Presenter:

The Bible helps us learn together about God, and to know God's vision for us. The Bible provides understanding of our existence, our reflection of God as our Creator, and our connection to each other.

All: Amen.

WATER

Presenter:

Water is a symbolic washing that prepares us for our new life with God as Disciples of Christ. It is a sign of our baptism that welcomes us into the church, the community of faith, and family of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

BREAD AND WINE

Presenter:

The Bread and Wine symbolize Communion that shows God's love for all humanity that includes children. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are reminded that we have been forgiven of our sins of not having a personal relationship with God. Through Christ, we have a renewed life with God, and with each other as one body under one Holy Spirit."

All: Amen.

A BASKET OF FRUIT

Presenter:

These gifts of the land symbolize our connection to God, the Creator, and our connection to the land that God provides for us. The fruit and vegetables that come from the land give us nourishment for our mind and our bodies that they will be healthy.

All: Amen.

A CLOCK

Presenter:

Take time and live a balanced life.
Take time to work and time to play,
Take time to learn and time to teach,
Take time to give, and be open to receiving the bountiful blessings of life.
Spend time with yourself,
Spend time with the Divine,
Spend time with others,

Spend time in nature.

Take the time to spend time, enjoying all that life has to offer:

rest, work, play, serve, learn, teach, give, receive and create harmony, the balance of life.

All: Amen.

THE UNITED CHURCH MANUAL

Presenter:

Be among us as one who helps us to pursue Ministry tasks that will benefit this congregation and help us to understand the policies of The United Church of Canada.

All: Amen.

CUP & SAUCER

Presenter:

Be among us as one who serves and practices the ministry of visitation and hospitality.

All: Amen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOURCES

Presenter:

Be among us as one who encourages the participation of youth.

All: Amen.

DECLARATION OF THE COVENANT

Presbytery Presider:

In the name of Jesus, and by the authority vested in me by Valley Presbytery, I declare that the covenant which has been made this day by Don, by the Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge and by the members of Valley Presbytery of the United Church of Canada has been duly witnessed, and the relationship duly constituted.

Prayer and Benediction

Pastoral Prayer

Disbanding of the Search Committee

*** Hymn:** "Go Make a Difference"

MV #209

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Participating in the Service

Minister of the
Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge Rev Don Sellsted
Music Director/Organist Ken Hassell
Presider Rev Tom Woods, Chair of Valley Presbytery
Sermon Rev John Moses
Scripture Reader Cheryl Sellsted
Presentation of Symbols:
Bible Helen Seymour, Cheryl Manzer
Water Vangé Leslie, Jean Millett
Bread and Wine Betty Rockwell, Christina Macdonald
Basket of Fruit Peter Oleskevich, Valerie Mosher
Clock Nancy Handrigan, Ian Godfrey
United Church Manual Gary Dunfield, Jane McDonald
Cup & Saucer Gail Gordon, Ruth-Anne Stirling
Christian Education Resources Grace Oleskevich, Maya Hawley

A special thank you to all the people
who participated in this Covenanting Service.

We invite you to remain for a reception
following the Covenanting Service.