

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 21, 2019, 11:00 am

Easter Sunday Holy Communion

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Clergy & Choir Enter

* **Introit:** "Welcome, Happy Day" VU #161, v1

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship:

One: Joy is in the air! Christ is risen!

All: We will not find Jesus in the tomb. He is risen!

One: Where shall we look?

How will we recognize the risen Christ?

All: Look to your neighbours and the strangers on the street. There, we will find the risen Christ. Alleluia!

One: On this glorious Easter morning we proclaim

All: Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

* **Hymn:** "This Is the Day" MV #122

* Lenten Candle Journey:

One: We followed Jesus through his life, his love, his joy, and his teaching, and found him in the hands of betrayers, deniers, and those too complacent to do anything. Then he was gone. So, is that it, the end?

All: No. That is only part of the story. Like him, we too face temptations and trials. Like him, we too find ourselves in the presence of deniers, betrayers, false prophets, and fair-weather friends. But the God of Jesus, our God, has shown us that the chaos, corruption, suffering, and evil of this world will never be all that is. It will not be the final answer. With every death comes resurrection. With every ending, there is a new beginning. That is the Good News of Easter.

One: We light this candle to celebrate that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light that nothing can ever extinguish.

Anthem: "This Joyful Eastertide"

* Opening Prayer:

One: With great joy we welcome you, Jesus!

All: The journey has been long and we have longed to enter the Holy City.

One: You come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing.

All: Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you. Hosanna!

One: Hosanna!

All: Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's Name. Hallelujah and Amen!

Listening

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

* **Hymn:** "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" MV #138

Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25
A new heaven and earth; the wolf and the lamb together
John 20:1-18
Mary and Simon Peter find the empty tomb

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Membership Transfer:

Statement of Purpose

Presentation:

On behalf of the Orchard Valley United Church congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith: Mary Jane Penny and Cheryl Sellsted.

Commitment of Members:

One: Mary Jane / Cheryl, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice, and resist evil?

New Members:

I will, with God's help.

Commitment of Congregation:

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to Orchard Valley / these persons our support and care.

All: As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

New Creed VU #918

Anthem: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Sermon: **When Has Jesus Spoken Your Name?**

* Hymn: "This is the Day that God has Made" VU #175

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

* Offertory: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" VU #179
Refrain only

* Offertory Prayer:

Risen Christ, bless these gifts, along with our very lives. May gifts and givers alike be dedicated to your work of love, hope, justice, and peace. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion:

Do not be afraid!

What was sealed is now open; once bound, now free;
once breathless, now breathing; once silenced, now laughing;
once broken, now whole; once dead, now living.

You are invited to the place of God's promise, now unfolded,
in bread, in wine, in community, this morning.

Do not be afraid!

Come taste resurrection, share eternity, and be touched
by the hand of the risen Christ.

Communion Prayers:

One: When we do not understand,

All: we gather by this table.

One: When mystery stretches ever wider,

All: we break bread.

One: When the wonder is more than our souls can hold,

All: we share the cup.

One: In resurrection, there is no other place to gather, other than
where heaven and earth tangle, where your hand twists
with laughter in the dawn.

**All: Take this bread, risen Saviour, and fill it with the story
of empty tombs.**

One: Take this wine, living Christ, and let it echo with the
whisper of resurrection.

**All: Take this table, risen Saviour, and let it be the place
where grave clothes are folded.**

One: Take this community, God of life, and infuse it with a fresh
spirit, unsealed, unbound, untied, to dance with the dawn,
and cry with the news, that today, this day, broken bread,
and shared wine, taste of resurrection.

One: When we do not understand,

All: we gather by this table.

One: When mystery stretches ever wider,

All: we break bread.

One: When the wonder is more than our souls can hold,

All: we share the cup.

One: Holy, holy, holy God, breathing, living, resurrected Saviour, peace-making, truth-giving, world-changing Spirit, hear us as we break bread together, in the eternal echo of new life.

All: Amen.

Communion

Prayer & Blessing:

One: Gracious God, this has been no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others. In Jesus' name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Prayers of the People

Departing

* **Hymn:** "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" VU #155

*** Commissioning:**

One: Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation,

All: we come to Christ this Holy Week.

One: Today is only a part of the story.

All: Jesus' triumph leads to his death, his death to his resurrection.

One: May the journey of this week lead you into the fullness of Christ's love.

*** Benediction**

Music as We Depart