



Photo: Johanna Rosolen

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 11:00 am

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

\* Please rise in body and/or spirit

#### Music as We Gather

#### \* Clergy & Choir Enter

#### \* Lighting of the First Candle of Advent: The Candle of Hope

One: The first candle on the Advent wreath reminds us to think of hope. We hope for many things.

We hope to finish what we start. We hope that the sermon is short.

We hope for long lives for people we love. We hope that God will save us from hard times and painful lessons.

Hope is the shape of our work and our words, while we wait for a future that only God knows.

**All: Holy and gracious God, your mercy and faithfulness are the headwaters of our hope. Our desires for Your promised future flow out of Your past and present faithfulness. We thank you, O God. Our hope is in you. Come Jesus, come.**

\* **Introit:** "A Candle Is Burning" VU #6, v1

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship:

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**All: For in God's house we shall find hope and healing.**

One: In God's house we shall find forgiveness and friendship.

**All: May peace be within the walls of this house of God.**

One: Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.

**All: Come, let us sing our praises to God who loves us. Amen.**

\* Hymn: "People, Look East" VU #9

\* **Opening Prayer:**

One: O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation.

**All: Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of love...**

One: that we might grow into faithful disciples...

**All: serving you by serving others with hope and compassion. This we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.**

**Membership Transfer:**

***Statement of Purpose***

***Presentation:***

Clerk of Session: On behalf of the congregation of Orchard Valley United Church, I present Doug Corkum, JoAnne Corkum, Sandy Smith, and Dave Ward, whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer of membership.

***Commitment of Members:***

Minister: Doug, JoAnne, Sandy and Dave, 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?

**Candidates: I will, with God's help.**

***Commitment of Congregation:***

Minister: 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.**

Clerk of Session: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in Orchard Valley United Church. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

***Blessing:***

Minister: The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

**All: Amen.**

\* Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" VU #602, v1

**Children's Focus**

**The Lord's Prayer**

\* Hymn: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33  
(Hope x2)

**Scripture Readings:** Isaiah 2:1-5  
Matthew 24:36-44

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** "Emmanuel, God with Us"

**Sermon:** **We're in the Hope Business**

\* Hymn: "Hope Shines as the Solitary Star" MV #220  
(Hope x2)

**Offering of Our Gifts and Food Bank Donations**

\* **Offertory:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" VU #55, v4

\* **Offertory Prayer:**

**May these gifts indeed give to all people, light when in darkness, hope when in despair, and justice when oppressed, as we bring them to you as an act of sharing your love with the world. Here may all who are broken be lifted up. May it be so for all, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

\* Hymn: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU #424

\* **Commissioning:**

One: As you leave the house of the Lord,

**All: we will open your eyes to the signs of God's presence all around us.**

One: Put on the clothes of Jesus Christ,

**All: and walk with the Spirit in the path of light.**

One: Go in peace.

\* **Benediction**

**Choral Amen**

**Music as We Depart**