

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 9:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent

Music as We Gather

*** Lighting of the Outreach and Christ Candles:**

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.

Music: "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, vs. 1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Gathering Words:

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.**

Music:

"People Look East"

VU #9, vs. 1,4,5

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

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.**

Basket of Blessings:

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.

Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

Music: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"

MV #33
(Hope 2x)

Jesus came bringing us hope
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah forever more!

Sharing the Story:

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

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

Music:

“Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

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.

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**

Benediction