

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 9:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Music as We Gather

*** Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – The Candle of Joy:**

One: So, what is Joy?

All: an emotion that's acquired by the anticipation, acquisition or even the expectation of something great or wonderful.

One: Yes, and?

All: A feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

One: What else?

All: A thing, like 'Sheer gladness'.

One: Now that is interesting: Joy can be a thing. Can joy be a Somebody too?

All: That's not what the dictionary says.

One: But that's what the Bible says: "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." The joy you are to have is the joy of Jesus. Our saving Joy!

All: Here's to Joy!

One: In Advent, Joy stirs within us, a sign of great happiness.

The candle of Joy is lit

Music: "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, vs. 3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Gathering Words:

One: We hear the echo of a promise: "I'm coming!"

All: Are you really the One?

One: "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk."

All: Are you really the One?

One: "The lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear."

All: Are you really the One?

One: "The dead are raised and the poor eat their fill."

All: But are you really the One?

One: "I'm the One who changes the world.

Are you really ready for me?"

All: With God's help, we're ready to follow.

We're ready for you!

Music: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" VU #60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: **R**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: **R**

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; **R**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

Opening Prayer:

One: God of All, we rejoice in the good news of your promises.

**All: Come into our parched world and shower us with your
flowing, abundant water of life.**

One: Enter into our brokenness,

All: and renew us with the strength of your love.

One: Be born anew in our hearts and in our world.

All: Come, Jesus, come. We are ready! Amen.

Basket of Blessings:

**Holy one, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering
as a sign of our trust in you and our intention to live
surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the**

joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Music:

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

VU #35

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Sharing the Story:

Matthew 11:2–11
Matthew 25:31–45

Children’s Pageant:

“Get Ready!”

Music: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33 (vs 1-3)

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

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

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

Prayer in Action

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father, our Mother, who art in heaven*

Music: "Joy to the World" VU #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Affirmation:

One: Let's go from here with heaven and nature singing,

All: repeating the sounds of joy and love.

One: Go out to be the enthusiasm the world needs...

All: and share the wonders of his love with all we meet.

Benediction