



Photo: Brenda Parker

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 11:00 am

2nd Sunday of Advent

*** Please rise in body and/or spirit**

Music as We Gather

*** Clergy & Choir Enter**

*** Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent: The Candle of Peace**

One: The first candle on the Advent wreath was the candle for hope. The second candle reminds us to pray and work for peace.

We are also called, through the Holy Spirit, to look for the signs of God's peace in the world. Peace is not merely the absence of fighting or war.

Peace is the restoration of relationships within creation and between peoples and nations to their true order, which bring glory to their Creator.

All: Holy and life-giving God, your Son carries the title "Prince of Peace". You have called us to imitate Him in thought, word, and deed. Let us seek to be peacemakers in our homes, in the community, and in the world. We thank you, God, for Your peace, which passes all understanding. Come Jesus, come. Amen.

*** Introit:** "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, v2

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Welcome and Announcements

Giving Tree Acknowledgements

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Get this! Someone special is coming – someone who will be wise;

All: who won't judge on appearances;

One: who will live a good life;

All: who will bring about a time when wolves and lambs, leopards and goats, cows and lions, dogs and cats, all lie down together.

One: And we're invited to be there to help make it happen.

All: So come and hear the stories again, and get ready for quite a happening.

One: And so we gather again as this morning comes upon us.

*** Hymn:** "Morning has Broken" VU #409

*** Opening Prayer:**

One: God of Surprising Generosity and Unexpected Grace, we have come to witness a miracle; to prepare our hearts for a new invasion of Your Light;

All: we have come once again to open our souls and our lives to the divine birth.

One: And in this sacred moment, we ask for Your gentle presence to captivate and challenge us.

All: In the peace and love of Jesus, this is our prayer. Amen.

Membership Transfer:

Statement of Purpose

Presentation:

Clerk of Session: On behalf of the congregation of Orchard Valley United Church, I present Sarah Hartman, Frank Hartman, Doris Laurence, and Hugh Laurence, whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer of membership.

Commitment of Members:

Minister: Sarah, Frank, Doris and Hugh, 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, v1,2

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "A Star Not Mapped on Human Charts"

Sermon: **Voices of Peace from the Edge**

*** Hymn:** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" VU #18

Offering of Our Gifts

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

*** Offertory Prayer: God of Peace, through these gifts we offer, we pray that they may aid peace to come to our troubled world. Help us to build peace with justice, wherever our lives touch others. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" VU #28, vs1, 4

*** Commissioning:**

One: We've heard the voice of Isaiah speaking to us today.

All: We will seek ways to open the world to the vision of a Peaceable Kingdom.

One: Where there are broken places,

All: we will seek to be the seeds of new growth in our world.

*** Benediction**

Choral Amen

Music as We Depart