

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

**Order of Worship**

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 9:00 am

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Music as We Gather**

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

One: So, what is peace?

**All: “freedom from disturbance; tranquillity.”**

One: Yes, and?

**All: “a great interest and pleasure in something.”**

One: What else?

**All: “a ceremonial handshake or kiss exchanged during a service in some Churches.”**

One: Now that is interesting: Peace can be a thing. Can it be a Somebody?

**All: That’s not what the dictionary says.**

One: But that’s what in the Bible: A child in a manger; a complete unknown; but somehow – our Saving Peace.

**All: Here’s to peace!**

One: In Advent, Peace stirs within us, like the soul of a newborn child!

*The candle of Peace is lit*

**Music:**

“A Candle is Burning”

VU #6, vs. 2

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

## **Welcome & News of the Community**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

## **Gathering Words:**

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.

**Music:**

“Morning has Broken”

VU #409

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

### **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.**

### **Basket of Blessings:**

**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.**

### **Children's Time**

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

**Music:** "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33, vs 1, 2

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!

**Sharing the Story:**            Isaiah 11:1-10  
   Matthew 3:1-12

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

**Music:**                    “There's a Voice in the Wilderness”                    VU #18

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.

God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

## **Prayer in Action**

### **Affirmation:**

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.**

**Music:** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" VU #28, vs 1&4

Herald! Sound the note of gladness!  
Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.

### **Refrain:**

*Sound the trumpet!  
Tell the message!  
Christ the Saving One has come!*

Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. **R**

**Refrain:**

*Sound the trumpet!*

*Tell the message!*

*Christ the Saving One has come!*

**Benediction**