



Photo: Peter Oleskevich

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 11:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Clergy & Choir Enter

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

One: The first candle on the Advent wreath is for hope and the second is for peace.

The third candle we light is for joy.

Advent is a season of waiting.

Even as we wait for the fulfillment of all God's good plans, we find joy in the work of God all around us.

The Spirit calls us to joy in our vocations – paid and unpaid work, relationships, and service.

We find joy in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

We cherish the joy of Mary and Joseph, of Elizabeth and Zechariah, of the shepherds and the angels, and of the whole creation.

All: Holy and compassionate God, your faithfulness in all things produces the harvest of our joy. We rejoice in You, always. Even in our seasons of doubt and darkness, we can find joy in the presence of Christ in our neighbors and the witness of the Holy Spirit in creation. Stir up our holy joy, that we may share it with all whom we encounter for the sake of Your gospel. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*** Introit:** "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, v3
One: The Peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you!

Welcome and Announcements

Giving Tree Acknowledgements

* Call to Worship:

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!**

*** Hymn:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU #60

* 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.

*** Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" VU #2

Listening

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:2-11
Matthew 25:31-45

Children's Pageant: "Get Ready!"

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33, vs1-3

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

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

* Offertory Prayer:

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.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** "Joy to the World" VU #59

* Commissioning:

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

Choral Amen

Music as We Depart