

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 22, 2019, 9:00 am

4th Sunday of Advent

Music as We Gather

*** Lighting of the 4th Candle of Advent – The Candle of Love**

One: We have lit candles for hope, peace, and joy. The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is for love. So, what is Love?

All: “An intense feeling of deep affection.”

One: Yes, and?

All: “A feeling of great pleasure and happiness.”

One: What else?

All: “Feel deep affection for.”

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

All: That’s not what the dictionary says.

One: But that’s what the Bible says: “God is Love”.

“Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” You are the Love of Jesus who tells us to love God, and love each other. Our saving Love!

All: Here’s to Love!

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

The candle of Love is lit

Music:

“A Candle is Burning”

VU #6, v.4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Gathering Words:

One: Christmas is a time of anticipation.

All: We can hardly wait.

One: Christmas is a time of giving.

All: We are ready to receive.

One: Christmas is a time of hope and promise.

All: We are looking for it.

One: Could it be? Is it here? Let us come and see;

All: let us open ourselves to the wonder of it all.

Music:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

VU #38, vs. 1,2,4

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? **R**

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. **R**

Opening Prayer:

One: O God, in this time of worship, may we be open to your promises, your love, and your transformation.

All: **May we vision and dream.**

May we be surprised.

May we receive the life you give us.

One: May we encounter Emmanuel—God with us.

All: **And may we never be the same. Amen.**

Basket of Blessings:

We celebrate your love, God of life, in these gifts and in the daily lives we lead that allows us to bring them. We would ask that you bless these offerings of our very selves, so that the world may receive your ultimate gift of love as we find in Jesus. Amen.

Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

Music:

“Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope”

MV #33, vs.1-4

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!

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

Sharing the Story:

Matthew 1:18–25

Meditation**Music:**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VU #31

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.

Prayer in Action

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.

Music:

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

VU #48

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **R**

Benediction