

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24, 2019, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* Clergy & Choir Enter

* Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles:

One: People of God, when the angels appeared, the shepherds were terrified.

All: We will not fear, for this is the night of Good News!

One: We celebrate the good news of a baby, born in a stable.

All: Tonight we light a candle to mark his birth.

One: We hope in the one who has come again, Jesus Christ.

(Light the Candle of Hope)

One: We pray for God's peace to overcome.

(Light the Candle of Peace)

One: Our joy comes in being God's own.

(Light the Candle of Joy)

One: God's love never ends.

(Light the Candle of Love)

One: Born as one of us, Jesus became God's living Word of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

(Light the Christ Candle)

One: No more shall we fear! The Good News is here!

All: God's child is born again! Hallelujah!

* **Introit:** "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, v5

One: I greet you in the name of the One born this night, Jesus, our Emmanuel – God-with-us. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!



Welcome

* Call to Worship:

One: Can you feel it?

All: Feel what?

One: The excitement in our gathering tonight?

All: Yes! It's Christmas Eve! We sense something is happening!

One: Tonight, we celebrate the birth of Christ, the One who came to reveal God's deep and lasting love for all, and to show us the way to true life!

All: Come, Child of God, be born in us this night!

* Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" VU #44

* Opening Prayer:

One: O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives.

All: We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe.

One: You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love.

All: Come Jesus, touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

* Hymn: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" VU #35

Listening

Nativity Story

One: Let your heart rest and let yourself settle into the story.

Hymn: "Jesus, Our Brother" VU #56, vs. 1-4,6

The First Lesson: Luke 1:26-33, 38
"Jesus' Birth Foretold"

The Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25
"The Angel Visits Joseph"

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" VU #64, vs 1&4

The Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-7
"The Birth of Jesus"

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20
"The Shepherd's Journey to Mary"

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" VU #48, vs 1&3

The Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12
"The Visit of the Magi"

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:21
"Jesus' Naming"

Hymn: "What Child is This" VU #74, vs 1&3

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

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

* Offertory Prayer:

We thank you, O God, for this wonderful afternoon of overwhelming gifts! All your family gathered here welcome your gifts to us of hope, peace, joy and love, all bundled in the birth of the Christ child. May we share these gifts generously with all today, and always. Amen.

One: We heard the story of great news! What joy! What amazement! They had to share it. They could not keep it to themselves. Go tell it! Go tell it on the Mountain!

Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" VU #43

Christmas Message

* Candlelight Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night" VU #67

**Please turn on your candles, and turn off for the final verse.*

* Blessing and Sending Forth:

One: May the hope of the saving Christ, the peace of the living Spirit, and the joy of the everlasting God, be with you now and always.