

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24, 2019, 6:00 pm

### Christmas Eve

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

#### Music as We Gather

#### \* Clergy & Choir Enter

#### \* Lighting of the Advent 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)*

**All: We gather here for this amazing birth of Jesus into our lives once again. Hallelujah!**

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

#### Welcome:

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.**

#### \* 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 how to live!

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

\* **Hymn:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU #60 vs. 1,3,5

#### \* Opening Prayer:

One: O wondrous God of life and love, 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.**

#### Passing of the Peace:

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

#### Nativity Story:

One: Let your heart rest, let yourself settle into the story. The night is quiet, this silent holy night. Rest. Listen. A prophet speaks!

\* **Scripture:** Isaiah 9:6-7

One: Peace? Peace that will never end? ... O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!

**Anthem:** "Still, Still, Still"

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-4

One: Oh, that's more like it. More like the real world. ...  
And so it was, that he went home, back to his home town of Bethlehem.

**Hymn:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" VU #64 vs. 1,2

**Scripture:** Luke 2:5-7

One: A manger? Is that a fit place for the King of Peace to be born? ...  
Only in a manger could God truly come to us, to live with us, with us!

**\* Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" VU #69

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-12

One: Do you think that God only speaks to people who go to church? ...  
But the message came anyway.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:13-14

**Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" VU #38

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-16

One: Would the ordinary people, the shepherds, be invited to a palace to meet a baby king? ...  
When God With Us, Emmanuel, is born, the door is open, wide open, for the shepherds, and for you!

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

**Scripture:** Luke 2:17-20

### Offering of Our Gifts

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

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

**We thank you, O God, for this wonderful evening 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

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

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: Jesus is born into our lives once again! Hallelujah!**

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

**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.

**Choral Closing:** "AMEN"