

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 29, 2019, 9:00 am

**1st Sunday After  
Christmas Day**

\* Please rise in body and/or spirit

**Music as We Gather**

**\* Clergy Enters**

**\* Introit:** "Joy to the World" VU #59, v1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**Welcome**

**Gathering Words:**

One: How magnificent is all creation!

**All: God's love is poured throughout all God has created.**

One: God's love is poured out upon us each day.

**All: We give our praise to this holy space.**

One: Let your souls and spirits rejoice at the goodness of God.

**All: Let all the people give thanks and praise! AMEN.**

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

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## \* Opening Prayer:

One: Praise the Living God! Praise God from the heavens:

**All: sun and moon and shining stars, praise the Living God!**

One: Praise God's Holy Name,

**All: whose word speaks all things into being,  
who is present in the expanse of the universe,  
and in the voices of children.**

One: Praise the Living God, our rescuer and deliverer,

**All: whose wonder is found in the heavens and in all  
creation, who comes in innocence, and with mercy.**

One: O God, our light, our beauty, our rest:  
with the appearance of your Son you have brought us  
into your new creation.

**All: Form us into your people, and root our lives in you,  
through Christ, the Living Light.**

## Children's Focus

### The Lord's Prayer

\* Carol: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

VU #43

#### **Refrain:**

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

**Refrain:**

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 35:1–10

**\* Carol:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

VU #64

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together

proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**Lesson:** Luke 1:30–37

**\* Carol:** “What Child is This?” VU #74

What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

**Refrain:**

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. **R**

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. **R**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**\* Carol:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" VU #44

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold,  
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains

they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,  
to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## **Basket of Blessings**

### **\* Offertory Prayer:**

**Receive these gifts, God of All, for the work of your kingdom. May our words become witness, and our witness become work, for your people, in your world. Amen.**

## **Prayer in Action**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 63:7-9

**Carol:**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

VU #67

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**\* 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.**



**\* Benediction:**

One: From this house to yours,  
may you share in the gifts of this season.  
May love, the promise of generations, attend you.  
Joy, the gift of life together, fill you.  
Peace, the desire of neighbour and nations, find you.  
Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you.  
And may a very Merry Christmas be yours. Amen.

**Music as We Depart**