

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 9:00 am

Epiphany Sunday

Music as We Gather

*** Lighting of the Outreach and Christ Candles:**

One: We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Christ.

All: The light from Christ shines equally for each of us.

One: We light this candle to remind us of the love of Christ.

All: The light from this candle shines equally for the world.

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Gathering Words:

One: The Magi came from many places to see the baby Jesus.

All: We, too, have come from many places to worship together and see the Holy Spirit in one another.

One: The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

All: We, too, bring gifts—ourselves, our hopes, our dreams, the visions we see.

One: The Magi travelled to Bethlehem and saw a great light.

All: We, too, travel to Bethlehem and then return to our homes, moved by what we have seen.

Music: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

VU #36

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

*come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: **R**

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: **R**

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: **R**

Opening Prayer:

One: O Holy One, we gather here in this house of prayer to give thanks and to celebrate your incredible presence in our midst.

All: **We lift up to you our songs of praise, the prayers of our hearts, the gifts of our resources. We gather here in your name, ready to listen to your presence stirring within our lives—moving us, shaping us, leading us.**

One: God of Grace, we offer to you our lives, in the name of Jesus,
our light.

All: Amen.

Basket of Blessings:

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in our world. Accept these gifts and the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. Amen.

Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

Music:

“Arise, Your Light is Come”

VU #79

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Sharing the Story: Matthew 2:1-12

Meditation: Do All Roads Lead to God?

Music: "Will You Come and See the Light" VU #96

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed
there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised,
and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least
are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about
is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Prayer in Action

Affirmation:

One: Let us go forth, into this new year, with trust in God's sending,

All: that we may follow God's heart and not our own.

One: Let us go forth bearing the name of Christ,

All: that we may become as Christ to all we meet.

One: Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit,

All: that we may turn from fear, embracing our commitments with love.

Music:

"I Am the Light of the World"

VU #87

Refrain:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: **R**

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! **R**

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! **R**

Refrain:

*'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! **R**

Benediction