

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 2, 2020, 11:00 am

4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Clergy & Choir Enter**

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

One: We gather as people open to the signs Jesus gives us.

All: We light the Outreach Candle to reflect your goodness and spirit amongst us.

One: We gather as a people to be taught by Jesus.

All: We light the Christ Candle to remind us of Jesus' promise to rejoice and be glad in a life of faith.

*** Introit:** "God is Here" VU #389, v1

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

One: People of God, who do you come to worship?

All: We come to worship God.

One: How will you worship?

All: With words, yes, and by living lives of justice and love.

One: Come, you who belong to God.

All: Come and abide in God's big tent and in God's endless heart, now and forever.

*** Hymn:** "Arise, Your Light is Come"

VU #79

*** Opening Prayer:**

One: Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence.

All: Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people.

One: Open our hearts to your spirit of truth...

All: that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace.

One: May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you.

All: Amen.

Listening

Children's Focus

Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

VU #345

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:18-21, 25-31
Matthew 5:1-12

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "The Welcome Table"

Sermon: A Foolish Faith

*** Hymn:** "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

VU #626

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts and Food Bank Donations

*** Offertory:** "When We Are Living"

VU #581, v2

*** Offertory Prayer:**

O God, we thank you for your great generosity. All that we are and all that we have is a gift from you. Help us to serve one another and so reflect your spirit and goodness.

Accept these offerings. May their purpose prosper under your guidance. Amen.

Holy Sacrament of Communion

* Hymn: "Here, O My Lord, VU #459
I See You Face to Face" vs.1,2

A Call to Give Thanks:

One: May God be with us.

All: God is here among us.

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

All: We open them to God and to one another.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: We give thanks because God is always with us. We thank God, Creator of us all; from the beginning God made the world and all its creatures. You made people to live for you and for one another. We praise you, O God.

All: We praise you, O God.

One: You created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden; you showed Noah a rainbow; you gave Moses strength to free your people and taught Miriam to sing; you gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth; you gave David a harp to sing your praise, and helped him defeat the giant. We praise you, O God.

All: We praise you, O God.

One: Yet, even they turned away from you and forgot about you, as we do too. But you did not forget. You sent Jesus to the world to show how much you love us and to bring us back to you again. We praise you, O God.

All: We praise you, O God.

One: He came as one of us, first an infant, then a child, later a youth, then an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, and wept with those who wept. To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope. To the sick, he gave healing. To the hurting, he was a friend. Still, people turned away from you. They betrayed Jesus and nailed

him to a cross. But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be with us and we with him, alive for evermore! Therefore with all the saints of every time and place, we join the angels in their praise:

Song of Creation:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Remembering Jesus at Table:

One: We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

All: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

One: That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

All: "Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

One: We drink this to remember Jesus. We remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection; we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth; and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Affirmation of Memory and Hope:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Transformation / Blessings of the Elements:

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

Sharing of Holy Communion

* Hymn: "Here, O My Lord, VU #459
I See You Face to Face" vs.3,5

Concluding Praise:

**All: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most
holy, now and forever. Amen.**

Departing

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** "Today We All Are Called" VU #507

*** Commissioning:**

One: Go now to embrace the values of our faith...

All: values of love, justice, and truth.

One: Go now with God's blessing,

**All: to live those values through the love of our challenging,
faithful, loving, inspiring God.**

*** Benediction**

Choral Amen

Music as We Depart