

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, March 1, 2020, 9:00 am

1st Sunday in Lent

Music as We Gather

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Gathering Words:

One: As we travel this Lenten pathway, we journey together, a community of faith.

All: **As we travel this Way of Jesus, we journey together, but also alone.**

One: Practising our faith:

All: **living Christ's call to love God with all that we are, to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.**

One: Practising our faith:

All: **as stewards on the Way.**

Music: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

VU #114

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about your way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?

If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Opening Prayer:

One: Lord, we are so tempted by everything we see;

All: the glitz and glitter of the world and the get-rich-quick schemes that get placed before us.

One: We believe that if we just have enough money, enough friends, enough power, enough safety, we will be OK.

All: Show us how we cannot place our hope and trust in these things.

One: Give us hearts for loving service in which we will find our strength, our courage, our security, our home.

All: May the good news of Jesus bring wholeness in all parts of our world. Amen.

Basket of Blessings:

**We do not live on bread alone, but by your Word, loving God.
May that Word fill our hearts and our hands, all that we have,
and all that we are, that it may be a blessing in your world. In
Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

Music:

"Walk with Me"

VU #649

Refrain:

*Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.*

When Moses heard the call of God
he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'
But God told Moses, 'You're the one
to set my people free.' **R**

Now Peter was a most unlikely
man to lead the flock;
but Jesus knew his holiness
and he became the Rock. **R**

Young Mary Magdalene was sure
her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let
God's love unlock the door. **R**

And when you share your faith with me
and work for life made new,

the witness of your faithfulness
calls me to walk with you. **R**

Refrain:

*Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.*

Sharing the Story: Matthew 4:1–11

Focus on the Word: **How to Say No!**

Music: “How Firm a Foundation” VU #660 vs. 1,2,3,5

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'

Prayer in Action

Thanksgiving Communion

A Call to Give Thanks:

One: God is here.

All: Always. Forever.

One: Let us remember!

All: With all that we are!

One: In the beginning, before there was a beginning, before there was even a before, there you were, God-of-All. You and the chaotic nothingness.

All: And with your Word, you brought being into being all that was, all that is, all that there will ever be.

One: And, with your love, you gave creation life – in all its fullness. Life! In all its complexity.

All: Life! In all its wandering confusion!

One: DNA, RNA, one cell, many cells, things that fly, things that swim, things that waddle or walk or crawl, things that move and have their being in you.

All: (And us, too!)

One: You gave us curiosity, and wonder, and stubbornness, and spirit. You gave us hope, and laughter, and companionship, and song. You gave life, in its myriad of possibility.

All: Thank you, loving God!

One: Sometimes, we have lived that life in ways that live into your desire for us. But, sometimes, in our wandering, in our fear, in our times of loss, or greed, or apathy – we have twisted the gift, we have twisted ourselves, we have twisted others – people, places and things.

All: But, every time, your love has sung out, urging us to wholeness, urging us to healing, urging us to right and

loving relationship, with ourselves, with the other, with you.

One: And so, in this season of Lent, in this time of reflection, of penitence, of change, we commit ourselves, again, to listening, prayerfully. We commit ourselves, again, to loving, carefully. We commit ourselves, again, to walking with Jesus Christ – to the desert, to Jerusalem, to the cross, to the beyond.

All: We commit ourselves, again, knowing that you walk with us, God of the deep places.

One: And we remember.

All: We remember.

One: That, on the night before he was taken to what would be his death, Jesus gathered with his disciples – people he said were his friends – and he ate with them, once again. Sharing in a meal of love, for each around the table, and for all around the world, he gave thanks to you, loving God. He took bread and broke it, and he gave it to those around, saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you. Each time you eat bread, remember me.”

All: We eat, and we remember.

One: When the meal was almost over, he took a cup, and again gave thanks to you, loving God. Then he said to them, “Take this, all of you, and drink it. This is my promise, in my life’s blood, that sin is forgiven. Each time you drink, remember me.”

All: We drink, and we remember.

One: God of all places, from deepest space, to the tiniest place inside, we ask that you would help us to know that you journey with all creation. Help us to see your Holy Spirit in this bread and cup, and in all who are gathered, that we

might know, deep within, that they, and we, are the body of Christ, alive in the world.

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.

One: Bread for The Journey. Wine for The Way. Christ's gifts for all creation.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer After Communion:

One: As we step into Lent, as we remember, reflect, and re-live, you have fed us with your love, once again. Help us to remember that we carry that love, everywhere we go. Help us to remind the world, you are present, and we are never, ever, alone. Amen.

Music: "Touch the Earth Lightly" MV #307 vs. 1, 3, 4

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Affirmation and Benediction:

One: As we travel this Lenten pathway, we journey together, a community of faith.

All: As we travel this Way of Jesus, we journey together, but also alone.

One: Let us go into God's world, practising our faith,

All: living Christ's call to love God with all that we are, to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

One: Let us go into God's world

All: knowing we are never alone. Christ's peace, the Creator's love, and the breath of the Holy Spirit go with us. Amen!

One: and the people said...

All: Amen!