

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Welcome

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Lenten Candle Journey:

One: At the first light of dawn, the women went to the tomb.

All: **Are not our hearts burning within us?**

One: And there they found...nothing?

All: **Are not our hearts lighted with fire?!**

One: An empty tomb! The grave-clothes lying on the ground! Where is Jesus?! (*light the candle*)

All: **Christ is risen.**

Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia! Amen!

Call to Worship:

One: Joy is in the air! Christ is risen!

All: **We will not find Jesus in the tomb. He is risen!**

One: Yes, Jesus has risen. Now, where will we find him?
Where shall we look?

All: **We will look to our neighbours and the strangers
on the street. There, we will find the risen Christ.
Alleluia!**

One: On this glorious Easter morning we proclaim

All: **Christ is Risen. Alleluia!**

Photo: John Foote

Hymn: "This is the Day That God Has Made" VU #175

Opening Prayer:

Sustainer of Life, we leave the distractions, or the humdrums, of our home where we find ourselves today, and bring our whole selves to worship this day. We bring our doubt and concern, and our certainty and hope. We transcend our heart and mind, and join our spirit with one another in complete community, so that we are able to be made complete through our worship to, and with, you. May we be blessed and renewed through your Spirit, and through the promise your resurrection brings. Amen.

Listening

Children's Focus

Hymn: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" VU #179
vs. 2&4

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:1-6
A new heaven and earth; the wolf and the lamb together

John 20:1-18

Mary and Simon Peter find the empty tomb

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Solo: "Ring from Your Steeple, Bells of Gladness
performed by Thea Burton

Sermon: **What are you looking for?**

Hymn: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" VU #166
vs. 1&3

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory Prayer:

As the rivers run, overflowing their banks, as the rough bulb becomes a yellow daffodil, as the earth-bound caterpillar turns into a winged butterfly, as the empty tomb tells us that Christ is risen, so may your love transform these gifts into abundant life, abundant life for all. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Departing

Hymn: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" VU #155

Commissioning:

One: Go, with the Easter joy deep within your hearts.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Go, with the Easter songs singing on your lips.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Go, with the hopeful message of Easter clear in your minds.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Go, certain that in time and beyond time,
God's love is with you and will never leave you.

All: Thanks be to God!

Benediction:

We go in joy – Jesus Lives! Alleluia!

May God, the creator of all life,

Jesus Christ, the source of eternal life,

and the Holy Spirit, the power in each and every life,
bless you, this day and every day.

Hallelujah! And the people said, "Amen".

Music as We Depart