

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 3, 2020

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

#### Music as We Gather

#### Gathering

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

A life in Christ is never ordinary, so we are well conditioned for the unordinary, or better yet, the extraordinary. The light of the Outreach Candle guides our path of serving others. The light of the Christ Candle guides the way of the Good Shepherd into our lives again, and again. Thanks be to God.

#### Keeping the Colour:

I'm calling these our Isolation Colour Candles, so that we know that wherever we find ourselves, whatever our circumstances, the light of faith and hope will keep the colour shining into our lives until we are together face to face again, and beyond. This is my prayer.

#### Welcome

One: Welcome in Christ's name, and may the peace that Christ gives be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

#### Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People

#### Call to Worship:

One: Do you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

All: **He knows us thoroughly and by name!**

One: How does this make you feel?

All: **That we are loved and cherished.**

One: And what else?

All: **We are worth knowing and have much to offer.**

One: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does know your name.

All: **We pray for the grace to listen to his voice as we worship today, and to listen always.**

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV #161

#### Opening Prayer:

We are standing at the gate, O Loving Shepherd, but we're not always that confident in the journey we've got ahead of us. In our longing for you, we pause in silence, hearing only our breath. And then in beauty, love and certainty we hear your voice calling our names. We can be assured that you will carry us safely in the journey before us, giving us strength and confidence in serving you, serving our sisters and brothers, and all creation. This is our prayer. Amen.

#### Listening

#### Children's Focus

Hymn: "Are You a Shepherd?" MV #126

Scriptures: Psalm 23  
John 10:1-10

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: "Lord, I Hope This Day is Good"  
performed by Fred Lipskey

**Sermon:**                **Hands Through a Gate**

**Poem:**                    “The Fist”                    *By Mary Oliver*

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts:**

We give these gifts and our whole selves to the ministry and mission of Orchard Valley United Church and the greater church. We are your disciples, O God, and it is a blessing to serve you through serving others. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:**                    “And On This Path”                    MV #8

### **Commissioning**

### **Benediction:**

The God of forgiveness bless you,  
the grace of Christ keep you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you.  
Let us go in peace, to love and to serve.  
Thanks be to God!

### **Music as We Depart**