

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

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 13, 2020, 10:00 am

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Music as We Gather**

### **Gathering**

**\* Lighting of the Outreach, Unity and Christ Candles:**

The work of justice, of loving and serving others, is not a task to complete, but the way of Christian life. We light this Outreach Candle, letting its light shine on our work of caring for all creation.

There is a flame that burns within each of us for a world where all people are united into one human family, where all are cherished and loved.

We fan the flame of potential that is found in all of our lives. We don't light the Christ Candle just yet, and in holding back, we gather in the anticipation of Jesus to be born once again into our lives. And we wait.

**\* Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: The Candle of Joy**

*(lit by the Handrigan-Oleskevich family)*

Watch the flame of this Third Candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. Let its glow radiate the joy found in the birth of new life, like that of a child born into our lives once again.

In this new Advent season, where do you find joy?

**\* Introit:**

“Hope is a Star”

VU #7 vs 3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

**Refrain:**

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

**Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People**

**Welcome and Announcements**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**\* Call to Worship:**

Do you know who is soon coming into our lives again this year?

**Could it be the one who gives us hope?**

Yes, he is bringing us hope.

**Could it be the one who is a messenger of Peace?**

Yes, he is our way to peace.

**And how about joy?**

You can count on it!

**It is Jesus!**

It is! So, let us worship God together now; the One who makes all this possible.

\* **Hymn:**            “Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness”            VU #28

Herald! Sound the note of gladness!  
Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.

**Refrain:**

*Sound the trumpet!  
Tell the message!  
Christ the Saving One has come!*

Herald! Sound the note of judgement,  
warning us of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness,  
till once more we sing the song. **R**

Herald! Sound the note of pardon!  
Those repenting are forgiven;  
God receives these wayward children,  
and to all new life is given. **R**

Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. **R**

**Opening Prayer**

# **Membership Transfer**

## **Statement of Purpose**

### **Presentation:**

Clerk of Session:

On behalf of the congregation of Orchard Valley United Church, I present Cupido Daniels, Lyn Bolt, and Roger Bolt, whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer of membership.

### **Commitment of Members:**

Minister:

Cupido, Lyn and Roger, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice, and resist evil?

**Candidates:**

**I will, with God's help.**

### **\* Commitment of Congregation:**

Minister:

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to Orchard Valley United Church these persons our support and care.

**All:**

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,  
we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.  
We pledge to you our love and our support.**

**With God's help, we will together live out  
the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

**Welcome:**

Clerk of Session:

In the name of Jesus Christ, accept this certificate of Membership as we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in Orchard Valley United Church and into our church family. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

**Blessing:**

Minister:

The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you, today and always.

**All: Amen.**

**Confirmation of New Members**

**Statement of Purpose**

**Presentation**

**Commitment of New Members:**

Minister:

Jean / Julien, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

**Candidates:**

**I will, with God's help.**

Minister:

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

**Candidates:**

**I will, with God's help.**

**\* Commitment of Congregation:**

Minister:

Friends in Christ, let us pledge to Jean / Julien our support and care.

**Congregation:**

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,  
we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.  
We pledge to you our love and our support.  
With God's help, we will together live out  
the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

**Laying on of Hands:**

**Presentation of Gifts:**

Clerk of Session:

Jean / Julien, accept this Certificate of Membership through Confirmation into the family of Orchard Valley United Church.

Minister:

Jean / Julien, accept this bible as the gift of God's word.  
May you find knowledge, comfort, and support to  
sustain you in life's journeys.

**Welcome:**

Clerk of Session:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to all the  
privileges and responsibilities of membership in this  
congregation, and to the greater United Church of  
Canada. We give thanks to God for your witness  
among us.

**Blessing:**

Minister:

The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround  
you, the Holy Spirit keep you, today and always.

**All: Amen.**

\* **Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" VU #602, v1

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

**Listening**

**Scriptures:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Chimes Choir:** “Away in a Manger /  
Still, Still, Still”

**Sermon:** **Who am I?**

**\* Hymn:** “I've Got Peace Like a River” VU #577 vs 2

I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

## **Celebrating**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**\* Hymn:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” VU #35

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!



Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**\* Commissioning**

**\* Benediction:**

May God's love make you increase in love for one another;  
May Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;  
and may the Spirit strengthen your hearts,  
as you ready yourselves for Jesus' birth once again.  
We go in peace to love and serve, this day, and everyday.  
Amen.

**Music as We Depart**