

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Music as We Gather

*** Lighting of the Outreach and Unity 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.

Lighting the Advent Candles:

The Candle of Hope – What does Hope mean for you?

(lit by the Davis-Bornemann family)

The Candle of Peace – What does Peace mean for you?

(lit by the Rosolen-Duyan family)

The Candle of Joy – What does Joy mean for you?

(lit by the Handrigan-Oleskevich family)

The Candle of Love – What does Love mean for you?

(lit by the Duggan-Trask family)

Lighting the Christ Candle: The Candle of Life

(lit by Jane McDonald & grandkids, Maddie and Raychel)

Watch the flame of the Christ Candle, the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love embodied in the one we call on this day our Christ Child. Let it illuminate the need for justice in the world so peace can reign.

What does Christmas mean for you?

Hymn:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

VU #60
vs. 1, 3, 5

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: **R**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People

Welcome and Announcements

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

* Call to Worship:

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

The God of Love be praised:

**whose word speaks all things into being,
who is present in the expanse of the universe,
and in the hearts of all people.**

Praise the Living God,

**who comes as a child, full of promise
and hope for the fulfillment of peace.**

Opening Prayer

Children's Time

Scripture: Gospel of Matthew 1:18–25

Reflection: **A Gift for the Christ Child,
From Mary and Joseph**

Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

VU #69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Scripture: Gospel of Luke 2:8–20
(read by Thelma MacDonald)

Reflection: **A Gift for the Christ Child,
From the Angels and the Shepherds**

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” VU #38

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? **R**

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. **R**

Scripture: Gospel of Matthew 2:1–12

Reflection: **A Gift for the Christ Child,
From the Wisemen**

Hymn: “What Child Is This?” VU #74

What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. **R**

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. **R**

Scripture: Gospel of Matthew 22:34–40

Reflection: **A Gift for the Christ Child,
From Us**

Special Music: “Christmas Lullaby”

Scripture: Gospel of John 1:1–14

Reflection: **A Gift for Humanity,
From the Christ Child**

Special Reading: “The Christmas Guest”
(Offered by Brenda Parker)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* Hymn:

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

VU #67

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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