

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

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, January 3, 2021, 10:00 am

### **Epiphany Sunday**

\* Please rise in body and/or spirit

#### **Music as We Gather**

### **Gathering**

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

**\* Hymn:** "A Light is Gleaming" VU #82  
vs 2-4

#### **Refrain:**

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.*

When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
it tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
"God's light will ever stay." **R**

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.

Now we, like Jesus, can help creation  
shine, and this will be a sign: **R**

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and a-blaze,  
warming all our days. **R**

**Refrain:**

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.*

**Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People**

**Welcome and Announcements**

May the peace that Christ gives be with you.  
**And also with you!**

**\* Call to Worship:**

What a year this has been!  
**It feels like a year of mixed messages.**

Go this way, no, go that way!  
**Do it this way, no, do it that way!**

For us, once again a light has arisen to clear our eyes.  
**We arise with inspiration from the light shining  
on us.**

Jesus' light is now in us to share abundantly.  
**And people see God's light in us. Let us rejoice!**

**\* Hymn:**

“The First Nowell”

VU #91  
vs 1–5

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookéd up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **R**

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
free reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**

**\* Opening Prayer**

## **Listening**

**Children's Time / Time for all Ages**

**Scriptures:** Ephesians 3:1–12  
Matthew 2:1–12

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music:** “The Lighthouse”

*Offered by Fred Lipskey,  
Accompanied by Ken Hassell*

**Sermon:** Epiphany Mysteries

## **Celebrating**

**Minute for Mission**

**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:**        “Will You Come and See the Light”        VU #96

Will you come and see the light  
from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright  
though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are,  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light  
that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right,  
it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed,  
there's a longing to be freed,  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light  
in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight,  
it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight  
in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight  
by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light  
of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night  
there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

**\* Commissioning**

**\* Benediction:**

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

**Music as We Depart**