

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 28th, 2021, 10:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Outreach Candle to cast warmth on our call to servanthood.

A light to caring for friend, neighbour and stranger.

We light the Unity Candle to shine on God's love of all people.

A light on the pathway to understanding and inclusion.

The Christ Candle remains unlit and as we wait in anticipation of Jesus to be born once again into our lives.

We wait and listen for the light to dawn, for the truth to reveal itself again.

Introit: "A Candle is Burning" VU #6 vs.1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Lighting the First Candle of Advent: The Candle of Hope

The first candle on the Advent wreath is about Hope. We hope for many things. We hope to finish what we start. We hope for an end to masks. We hope to embrace friends without fear or worry. We hope the painful lessons and hardships of the past 20 months will make us a better people to one another and to creation. Hope is the shape of our work and our words, while we wait for a future that only God knows.

Gracious and Loving God, your mercy and faithfulness are the source of our hope. Our desires for Your promised future sustain our faithfulness. We thank you, O God. Our hope is in you. Come Jesus, come.

Recognition of the Land

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Look, there's the Spark of Hope that God is placing among us.

All we can see is hectic lives, stores too crowded, sundown coming too early, apprehension and worry.

Look closer - the spirit of God is moving, bringing hope.

We need to place our hope in God, but we are afraid.

A long time ago, people were afraid and God brought to them Hope in the flesh.

May God bring that Hope to us today! AMEN.

Hymn: “O come, O come, Emmanuel” VU #1(Vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. **R**

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight. **R**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind,
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. **R**

Opening Prayer

Membership Transfer

Statement of Purpose

Presentation:

Clerk of Session:

On behalf of the congregation of Orchard Valley United Church, I present Annette Wray and Gordon Wray, whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer of membership.

Commitment of Members:

Minister:

Annette and Gordon, 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:

We 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.

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound!"

VU #29

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Minute for Mission

Scriptures: Luke 21:25-36

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: **Advent Reflection**

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Sermon: Hard Dose of Reality

Hymn: “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” MV #220

Hope shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Joy shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Love shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Celebrating

Prayers of the People

Hymn: “All Earth is Waiting”

VU #5

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
And open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty,
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Isreal,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”,
One whose name is “God with us”, our Saviour shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more in our
hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see ,
And open the doorways as wide as can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
For Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now,
Again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

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.
And the people said ... **AMEN!**