

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 12th, 2021, 10:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Outreach Candle to cast warmth on our Joy found in serving others.

A light to caring for friend, neighbour and stranger.

We light the Unity Candle to acknowledge that God's love shines on 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 truth to dawn, for the light to reveal itself again.

Introit: "A Candle is Burning" VU #6 vs.3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: The Candle of Joy

The Third Candle on the Advent wreath is about Joy.
Joy when anticipating something great or wonderful.
Joy when feeling great pleasure and happiness.
Joy realized when everyone is included and involved in every occasion.
Joy when good news is received for all people.
The Joy you are to have is the joy of Jesus. Our saving Joy!
Sustaining and Loving God, your grace and promise are the source of our anticipation of joy. Our desires for Your declared future sustain our faithfulness. We thank you, O God. Our Joy is found 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 Glow of Joy that God is placing among us.
Joy? Joy when there's so much to worry about?
Look closer – God is bringing Joy to us again.
We know God can bring us joy, but we're too nervous to even look.
A long time ago, people were anxious and worried, and God brought to them Joy in the flesh.
May God bring that Joy to us today! AMEN.

Hymn:

“I Come With Joy”

VU #477

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Go, Tell It On the Mountain" VU #43

Refrain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

Minute for Mission

Scriptures: Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Special Music: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Offered by Orchard Valley Chimes

Sermon: Nothing is too Routine

Hymn: “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” MV #220
(3 verses – Hope, Peace, Joy)

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.

Prayers of the People Celebrating

Hymn: "Joy Is Now in Every Place"

VU #45

Joy is now in every place,
Christmas lightens every face;
now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

May the star that shone that night,
making your poor stable bright,
fill our hearts with love and light,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Through the New Year let it stay,
leading us upon your way,
making Christmas every day,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to humankind,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

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!**