

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 19th, 2021, 10:00 am

4th 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.4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent: The Candle of Love

The Fourth Candle on the Advent wreath is about Love.

Love when we are serving.

Love when we care for the least among us.

Love when the world thinks we're weird for doing it.

Love, God's love, abundantly poured out for all creation.

Love born in the flesh, into the world to dwell as truth among us.

Caring God, your grace and promise are the source of our love. Our desire for your declared future sustain our faithfulness. We thank you, O God. Our Love 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 Warmth of Love that God is placing among us.

Love? Sure, we know God's love is here, there's just so little time right now.

There's always time to gather in the love of God and the love of one another.

Love is hard when we are so anxious and concerned about what may come.

A long time ago, people were anxious and worried about the future, and God brought to them Love in the flesh.

**God brings that Love to us today and always!
Hallelujah and AMEN.**

Opening Prayer

Lessons and Carols

Introductory Reading

Carol: “Once in Royal David’s City” VU #62

(solo) Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

(All) He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
And through all His wond’rous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

1st Lesson: *God announces in the
Garden of Eden that the offspring of
woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Choir: **"Light Beyond Shadow"**
by Dan Forrest

2nd Lesson: *God promises to faithful
Abraham that in his offspring,
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Choir: **"The Birthday of a King"**
ad. J. Schrader

3rd Lesson: *Christ's birth and kingdom
are foretold by Isaiah.*

Carol: **"The First Nowell"**

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, 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 look-ed 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:

Refrain

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:

Refrain

The let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavn'ly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath brought:

Refrain

4th Lesson: *The peace that Christ
will bring is foreshown.*

Choir: **"Of the Father's Love"**
by A. Prudentius

5th Lesson: *The angel, Gabriel,
salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Carol: **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"** **VU #36**

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: R

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: R

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: R

6th Lesson: *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Choir: **“In the Bleak Midwinter”**
 by H. Darke

7th Lesson: *The shepherds go to the manger.*

Carol: **“While Shepherds Watched”** **VU #75**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.'

8th Lesson: *The wise men are led
by the star to Jesus.*

Choir: “Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child!”

arr. Larson

9th Lesson: *St. John unfolds the great mystery
of the Incarnation.*

Carol: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

VU #48

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **R**

Blessing & Benediction

Postlude