

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, December 24th, 2021, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candle

In the security of darkness, God is there. In the witness to daylight, God is there. Jesus comes as the very heart of acceptance of all people.

Christ is the Way, and the source of infinite Unity.

For those of us whose vision is unclear, wandering in uncertainty, a new way has come upon us.

Christ is the Way, and the source of eternal Hope.

For those of us living in fear and dread, a new way has dawned.

Christ is the Way, and the source of everlasting Peace.

For those of us living in futility and despair, a new way has dawned.

Christ is the Way, and the source of endless Joy.

For those of us living in loneliness and heartache, a new way has dawned.

Christ is the Way, and the source of boundless Love.

Lighting the Christ Candle

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.

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

I greet you in the name of the One born this night,
Jesus, our Emmanuel – God-with-us.
May the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Call to Worship

We come to hear the story of a baby who was born in a manger.

The nativity story is our story, too.

Surrounded by animals, in an ordinary stable, when there was no room at the inn

The nativity story is our story, too.

Come, witness the birth of the Christ child.

Hallelujah. Jesus Christ is born

Opening Prayer

Nativity Play

Nativity Theme:

On our way to Bethlehem

Scene one: *Narrator, Mary, Joseph, Donkey, and Angels 1 & 2*

Scripture:

Luke 1: 26-38

Scene Two:

Angels 1&2

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-7

Scene Three:

*Narrator, Mary, Joseph,
Donkey, Innkeeper, and
Innkeeper's Wife*

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing On High"

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 angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.
Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains,
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-16

Scene Four: *Shepherds and Sheep*

Hymn: "The First Nowell" VU 91(vs. 1)

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.

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

Scripture: Matthew 2:10-11

Scene Five: *Narrator and Three Kings*

Hymn: "The First Nowell" VU91 (vs. 5)

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

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

Scene Six: *Narrator, Cow, Three Kings, and Sheep*

Hymn: “The First Nowell” VU 91 (vs. 6)

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

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

Scene Seven: *All Characters*

Scripture: Luke 2:21

Scene Eight: *Narrator*

Nativity Theme *On our way to Bethlehem*

Carol Medley: “Joy to the world -
 Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

Joy to the world the Lord is come.

Let earth receive her King!

Let ev’ry heart prepare him room,

And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,

And Heav’n and Heaven and nature sing.

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.
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.
He rules the world 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!

Celebrating

Message

Special Music: In the Bleak Midwinter

Offered by Caroline Burton

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Silent 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.

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!**