

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

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:00 am

### **First Sunday of Lent**

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

#### **Gathering**

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

**Introit:**                    “Spirit of the Living God”                    VU #376

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

#### **Recognition of the Land**

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

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship:**

Once again, the season of Lent begins, we are summoned  
by a gracious and merciful God.

**We respond to God's steadfast love, calling us together in praise.**

Let us be in awe before the One Who Creates.

**We approach God in reverence and wonder, rejoicing in the invitation to holy places.**

Walk humbly before God in discipline, and in prayer and fasting and giving.

**We seek the One who grants us life, upholding us with a willing spirit.**

## **Lenten Candle Journey**

**Hymn:** "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

VU #356

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and God's righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.

We do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Listening**

## **Prayer Shawl Blessing**

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

**Hymn:** "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

VU #115

Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;  
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'  
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,  
'can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!'

Jesus, tempted at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break your fall!'  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request:  
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
we must never vainly test.'

Jesus, tempted on the mountain  
by the lure of vast domain:  
'Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way:  
'God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!'

When we face temptation's power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us  
lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.

**Scriptures:** Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

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

**Special Music:** **The Lighthouse**  
*Offered by Fred Lipskey*

**Sermon:** **Wilderness Hallelujahs**

**Hymn:** "She Comes Sailing on the Wind" VU #380

**Refrain:**

She comes sailing on the wind,  
her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight,  
her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,  
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.

And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the  
earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child. **(to Verse 2)**

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight  
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.  
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts  
found new delight,  
and then down the ages still she flew on. **R**

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,  
a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would  
never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. **(to Verse 4)**

Flying to the river, she waited circling high  
above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the  
sky,  
and she carried him away in her embrace. **R**

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,  
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings  
unfurled,  
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. **R**

## **Celebrating**

### **Holy Communion**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:**                    “Let All Things Now Living”                    VU #242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

### **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!**