

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, March 27, 2022, 10:00 am

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Music as We Gather**

**Gathering**

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

**Introit:** "And on This Path" MV #8

And on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gate are open wide!

So enter in  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
so enter in  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
so enter in  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gate are open wide!

## **Recognition of the Land**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **Call to Worship:**

We continue our Lenten journey. Even when we feel lost and far away...

**God's love is always with us.**

Even when we have not always made good decisions...

**God's love never ceases.**

We will always have a home in God...

**who awaits and welcomes us.**

It is good to be at home here. Let us worship.

## **Lenten Candle Journey**

**Hymn:** "New Every Morning"

VU #405

New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies each returning day  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,  
new treasures still of countless price  
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,  
will furnish all we ought to ask,  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O God, in your dear love  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Listening**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:**        "Long Before My Journey's Start"        MV #63

Long before my journey's start,  
When in my youth I searched in my heart,  
I would pray for her, wait for her,

Wisdom, my road, my goal, and my star.

From the blossom to the seed,  
long has she filled my cup in need,  
May I cling to her vine, taste of her wine,  
Wisdom, my life, my perfect design.

When I stretched my hands to the sky,  
When in despair my soul raise a cry,  
I was saved by her gaze, led in her ways,  
Wisdom, my love, the light of my days.

### **Minute for Mission**

**Scriptures:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music:** **Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit**

*Offered by Thea Koenig Burton*

**Sermon:** **Family Affair**

**Hymn:** "My Life Flows On"

VU #716

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing:  
It finds an echo in my soul -  
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Saviour still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
and hear their death knells ringing:  
when friends rejoice both far and near,  
how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile  
our thoughts to them are winging:  
when friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
and day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing:  
all things are mine since I am Christ's -

how can I keep from singing?

## **Celebrating**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:** “Would You Bless Our Homes and Families” VU #556

Would you bless our homes and families,  
Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,  
let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;

may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.

## **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!**