



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH
9256 Commercial St., New Minas, NS
Mailing address: 130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS
B4N 3M7



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 20, 2022, 10:00 am

24rd Sunday after Pentecost Transgender Day of Remembrance

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Litany of Remembrance

We light this candle in remembrance of all who have harmed because of their gender identity. *(blue candle is lit)*

Their light comes from the eternal light, and shall not be put out.

We light this candle in remembrance of all who have been rejected by others because of their gender identity. *(pink candle is lit)*

Their light comes from the eternal light, and shall not be put out.

We light this candle for all who are living with oppression, fear, isolation, prejudice, persecution, and more because of their gender identity. *(white candle is lit)*

Their light comes from the eternal light, and shall not be put out. May all be free to shine as who they are.

*** Introit:** “God of Many Faces” SftHO #13

God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever-growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new names that reflect our true souls.
Breathe with your Holy Spirit to give us the Word
that dwells in dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,
shifting more each day through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
holier each day, still becoming more true.

Recognition of the Land

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

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship:

With the flowers who never showed their true colours,
let us turn to the God of many faces.

With the butterflies who never spread their wings,
let us turn to the God of many faces.

With the children misidentified at birth,
let us turn to the God of many names.

With the siblings misremembered at their death,
let us turn to the God of many names

With those whose true selves have been abhorred by an
uncomprehending world,

let us turn to the God of many mercies.

And with all those who have fallen in their dance across
galaxies of gender,

let us turn to the God of many mercies.

* Hymn: “O God, Why Are You Silent” MV #73

O God, why are you silent? I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent all claim you and
rejoice.

You promised you would hold me with tenderness and
care.

Draw near, O Love, enfold me, and ease the pain I bear.

Now lost with in my grieving, I fall and lose my way,
My fragile faint, believing so swiftly swept away.

O God of pain and sorrow, my compass and my
guide,
I can not face the morrow without you by my side.

My hope lies bruised and battered, my wounded heart is
torn;
my spirit spent and shattered by life's relentless storm.
Will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep
within?
Have you no word to cheer me when night is closing in?

Through endless nights of weeping, through weary days
of grief,
my heart is in your keeping, my comfort, my relief.
Come, share my tears and sadness, come, suffer in my
pain;
O bring me home to gladness, restore my hope again.

May pain draw forth compassion, let wisdom rise from
loss.
O take my heart and fashion the image of your cross.
Then may I know your healing through healing that I
share,
your grace and love revealing your tenderness and
care.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages: I am Jazz

by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings

*** The Lord's Prayer (Alternate Version)**

Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent,
in whom we move and breathe and have our being,
The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity
of your children.
May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion
and belonging
reign here on earth as in heaven.
Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their
daily needs met —
that they might find gainful employment without
discrimination;
that they might have access to medical care without
fear;
that they might have their rights and lives protected,
and that they might find a loving community to belong
to and call their own.
Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and
failed your transgender children.
Forgive us for the times we turned away, or did not
care;
for the times we laughed or judged their unique
expression of your image;
for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or
failed to hear.
As we forgive those who might have failed us.
Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in
the face of injustice,
but instead give us courage to rise up and stand with
your beloved children.

For your love and justice is to be made manifest now
and forever. Amen.

*** Hymn:** "Go Make a Difference" MV #209

Refrain:

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

(2 more times)

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

Call to Action

Scripture:

Lamentations 3:1-21; 46-57 (CEB)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: The Lord My Shepherd

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: The Many Passions of the Transgender Christ

Offered by Tamsin Michael-Robson

*** Hymn: “Love’s Rage and Grief” SftHO #27**

Love’s rage and grief when parents harm and shun the child
they raised,
an exile from their hearts and home, abandoned and erased.

Love’s rage and grief when strangers harm and bruise the
child Love made;
they batter with their fists and words, advancing hate’s
crusade.

Love’s rage and grief when leaders harm and cast Love’s
own away;
while claiming truth and righteousness, they blaspheme
when they pray.

Love’s fierce, relentless work to seek the outcast, hurt,
afraid,
to be a refuge and a home, to hold the child betrayed.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** “We Give Thee but Thine Own” VU #543 vs.1

We give thee but thine own,
what e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Holy God, with our offerings of time, talent, and treasure, we also offer our gifts of understanding, compassion, and acceptance to all people of our world. Let our gift be one of love and support as we journey together. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “What Calls Me From the Death” MV #93

What calls me from the death where I have rested?
Why am I now emerging from my tomb?
I sense that I am coming to be tested.
Is this my second birthing from the womb?

Now I can hear the voice of Jesus calling,
but it is not the Saviour's voice alone,
for others share their words as tears are falling.
Collectively, they roll away the stone.

The remnants of my past I now am shedding;
the bits of cloth that cling I now discard.
And in this new direction I am heading,
I know that I will find my own reward.

No matter that my tomb was of long standing,
that change seemed futile, out of reach for me.
If I accept the life that God is handing,
my blessing is a new identity.

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!**

*** Hymn**

“Amen”

VU #967