



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



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:00 am

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude** *Women: Carol of the Bells in Ukrainian/Men: Chimes*  
**Gathering**

**\* Introit:** “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” MV #220 x1

Love shines as the solitary star.

Faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.

### **Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath we light is the Candle of Love. It is the love found in our passion to be a compassionate church, year in and year out. In sharing our love, we fulfill God’s call to be Christ’s disciple. It is abundant love that challenges us to imagine a better place and a better way to care for all of creation, including ourselves. We choose love to overcome hatred and infuse humanity with kindness. Take heart for indeed for God is love.

**Holy and patient God, fill us with a yearning to live  
out our desire to be the Love our world so needs.  
Our Love is in you. Come Jesus, come.**

**\* Hymn:** “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” MV #220

Hope shines as the solitary star.  
Faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as the solitary star.  
Faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.

Joy shines as the solitary star.  
Faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights  
and illumine the pathway home.

Love shines as the solitary star.  
Faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
And illumine the pathway home

### **Recognition of the Land**

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Opening Prayer**

## **Nativity, Lessons and Carols**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:3-5

*Prophecy to Prepare*

### **Nativity Scene #1**

**Hymn:** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

VU#18

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:

prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-35

*Mary is visited by an Angel*

## **Nativity Scene #2**

**Anthem:** She Walked in Summer

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-7

*Jesus' birth*

## **Nativity Scene #3**

**Hymn:** Silent Night VU#67

vs 1 Duet Cupido and Rachel, vs 2 Cupido sings - Zulu,  
vs 3 Choir – German, Instrumental Bridge – Rachel/Doug  
Congregation joins in English(repeat vs 1)

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.

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 8-14

*Angels proclaim*

## **Nativity Scene #4**

**Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High VU#38

vs 1 Youth, vs 3 Choir (French), vs 4 Congregation

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-20

*Shepherds hear and go*

### **Nativity Scene #5**

**Anthem:** Sheep Fast Asleep  
(sung in Japanese and English)

**Scripture:** Luke 2:21

*Jesus is named*

### **Nativity Scene #6**

**Anthem:** "Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"  
*by Lloyd Larson (African Spiritual)*

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

*Wisemen see Herod and Child*

### **Nativity Scene #7**

**Hymn:** Huron Carol VU#71  
*(Native American Lyrics)*

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

**Jesus your King is born,**

**Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.**

Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found,  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: **R**

The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. **R**

O children of the forest free,  
the angel song is true,  
the holy child of earth and heaven  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy: **R**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:22, 25-32

*Simeon blesses Jesus*

**Nativity Scene #8**

**Hymn:** A Light is Gleaming VU# 82  
Refrain Youth with Choir, vs 1,2,3 Choir,  
vs 4 Congregation joins

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,  
warming all our days.

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.**

**Message:**                      **What are you saying?**    *Rev. Don Sellsted*

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

**\* Offertory:**              “In the Bleak Midwinter”                      VU #55, v4

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

### **Prayers of the People**

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

**\* Hymn:**                      Jesus came bringing Us Hope                      MV#33

Jesus came bringing us hope (x3)  
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us peace (x3)  
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us love (x3)  
hallelujah forever more!

Jesus came bringing us joy (x3)  
hallelujah forever more!

**\* 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!**

<b>* Hymn:</b>	"Amen"	VU #967
Amen, amen, amen.		