



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



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Saturday, December 24, 2022, 4:00 pm

### **Christmas Eve**

**Prelude**

**Centering in Silence**

**Introit:** "O Holy Night" vs. 1 & 2  
*Offered by Caroline Burton*

**Lighting of the Candles**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**The Candle of Hope**

Rejoice!, and do not be afraid... on this journey of hope.  
(a candle is lit)

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**The Candle of Peace**

Rejoice, rejoice, and do not be afraid... all that hinders our  
journey of love and encouragement  
(a candle is lit)

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**



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### **The Candle of Joy**

Again I say, rejoice... to bring joy to our world.

(a candle is lit)

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **The Candle of Love**

And yet again, I tell you, rejoice!... but the greatest of these is love.

(a candle is lit)

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **The Christ Candle**

It's with great cries of Rejoice that Jesus walks... Rejoice, for Jesus

is with us now

(a candle is lit)

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind,  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us the Prince of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Call To Worship**

Can you feel it?

**Feel what?**

The excitement growing amongst us tonight!

**Yes! It's Christmas Eve and something wonderful is  
happening!**

Tonight, we celebrate an amazing birth...



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**The birth of the One who came to reveal God's deep and lasting love for all...**

And fill us with a yearning to be the love our world needs!

**Come, Jesus, come amongst your faithful tonight.**

**\* Hymn:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU #60 vs. 1,3,5

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.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: **R**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

**\* Opening Prayer:**

**Children's Time**

**Nativity Story:**

Let your heart rest, let yourself settle into the story. The night is quiet, this silent holy night. Rest. Listen. A prophet speaks!



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**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:1, 6–7

**\*Hymn:** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” VU #48 vs. 1,3

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 the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1–4



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**\*Hymn:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" VU #64 vs. 1,2

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

**Scripture:** Luke 2:5-7

**\* Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" VU #69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



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The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8–12

**Choir Anthem:** “We Bring Glad Tidings”

*Carlson and Wright*

**Scripture:** Luke 2:13–14

**\*Hymn:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

VU #38

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be



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which inspire your heavenly song? **R**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

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

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15–16

**\* Hymn:** “Joy to the World” VU #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,



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nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth 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.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:17-20

### **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:**

**We thank you, O God, for this wonderful evening of  
overwhelming gifts! All your family gathered here  
welcome your gifts to us of hope, peace, joy and love, all  
bundled in the birth of the Christ child. May we share  
these gifts generously with all today, and always. Amen.**





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**\*Hymn:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

VU #43

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

### **Christmas Wrapping**

**\* Hymn:** "Silent Night, Holy 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,



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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.

### **Blessing and Sending Forth:**

Born as one of us, Jesus became God's living Word of  
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

No more shall we fear!

**Hallelujah!**

The Good News is here!

**Hallelujah!**

Jesus welcomes everyone into God's home, as all are welcome  
in ours.

**Jesus is born into our lives once again! Hallelujah!**

May the hope of our loving Jesus,  
the peace of the living Spirit,



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and the joy of the everlasting God,  
be with you now and always.

**Hallelujah and Amen!**

**Closing Solo:**

**“O Holy Night”**

**vs. 3 & 4**

*Offered by Caroline Burton*

This bulletin is sponsored by  
Vera Burke  
in joyful celebration of her mother,  
**~Marguerite Caldwell~**  
**1919 – Present**  
*Much love from Vera, Pat and Family*