



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



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 10:00 am

### **Epiphany**

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

#### **Gathering**

**\* Introit:** "A Light is Gleaming" VU #82 vs.1

#### **Refrain:**

**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.**

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
our memories and tears. **R**

#### **The lighting of the Christ Candle**

**\* Hymn:** "A Light is Gleaming" VU #82 vs. 4

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. **R**

## **Recognition of the Land**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **Call to Worship:**

Arise and shine, for your light has come!

**The Light of Christ has risen upon you.**

Lift up your heart!

**We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Come let us worship our God of joy and peace.

**We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe - truth  
and love incarnate.**

God's light has come upon us. Let us worship!

**\* Hymn:**            "Arise, Your Light is Come"

VU #79

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

show forth the glory of your God,

which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!

Fling wide the prison door;

proclaim the captive's liberty,

good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born,

bind up the broken-hearted ones

and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Listening**

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

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

\* **Hymn:** "Will You Come and See the Light" VU #96

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed  
there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

**Scripture:**

Isaiah 60:1-6

*Arise, shine; for your light has come.*

Matthew 2:1-12

*The visit of the magi*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Solo: I heard the bells on Christmas Day**

*Offered by Thea Burton*

**Message:**

**By Another Way**

*Rev. Don Sellsted*

**\* Hymn: "I am the Light of the World"**

**VU #87**

**Refrain:**

**'I am the light of the world!**

**You people come and follow me!'**

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,

when the kings and the shepherds have found their way  
home,  
the work of Christmas is begun: **R**

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above! **R**

To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere! **R**

To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth! **R**

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

**\* Offertory:**    “We Give You but Your Own”                      VU #542

We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully.

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

**God of light and promise, we bring our gifts  
to further your work in a distressed world.**

**May they bring your light to those overcome  
by anxiousness, pain, and loneliness.  
With these gifts we also give the gift of our very  
selves. Let them shine for all to see and be brought  
into the sphere of your love and righteousness.  
Amen**

## **Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn:**           “May God's Sheltering Wings”           MV #214

May God's sheltering wings,  
her gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms,  
her cradling arms sustain you,  
and hold you in her love,  
and hold you in her love.

**\* 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  
Amen, amen, amen.

## **Postlude**