



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



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 am  
**Black History Month**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Music as We Gather**

**Gathering**

**\* Introit:** “Serve our God with Joy and Gladness”

Serve our God with joy and gladness;  
Come into God’s gates with song;  
Serve our God with loving kindness;  
And praise God all day long.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

God is love, and where God is, there is love.  
There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.  
It is love that unites our hearts and minds.  
Let us celebrate the wonderful love that God has for all  
creation.

**Recognition of the Land**

**TRC Call to Action #8**

**Welcome and Announcements**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**Call to Worship:**

Now is a great time to gather on this holy ground.

**Let's stay right here in this moment.**

It's hard to let go of some moments.

**And yet, we know there is more to do.**

Our church was born out of our diverse history.

**From that birth, we learn what God has in store for us.**

Only if we cherish the moment...

**and continue the journey.**

People of the Way, let God touch our heart as we worship.

**\* Hymn:**                    "Come Touch Our Hearts"                    MV #12

Come touch our hearts  
That we may know compassion  
From failing embers  
Build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough  
To overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious,  
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls  
That we may know and love you,  
Your quiet presence  
All our fears dispel;  
Create a space  
For spirit to grow in us,

Let life and beauty fill us,  
Come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds  
And teach us how to reason,  
Set free our thoughts  
To wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open  
Doors of understanding,  
To welcome truth and wisdom,  
Come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in  
The moments we are fragile,  
And in our weakness  
Your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise  
To follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now,  
This people who are gathered,  
To break the bread  
And share the cup of peace;  
That we may love  
You with our heart, our soul,  
Our mind, our strength, our all,  
Come touch us with your grace.

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Listening**

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\* Hymn:** "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

VU #103 vs.1-3,5

How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments, like the sun,  
shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here,  
your beauty to behold,  
where Moses and Elijah stand,  
your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past  
and hope of things to be,  
we hail your body glorified,  
and our redemption see!

How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
but, since you bid us leave the mount,  
come with us to the plain.

**TRC Call to Action #8**

**Scripture:**

Exodus 24:12–18

*God calls Moses up the mountain.*

Matthew 17:1–9

*Jesus transfigured on the mountain.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music:            The Lord's Prayer**

Albert Hay Malotte

*Offered by Johann Botha and Lisa Saint Claire*

**Message:                    Out of the Forest**

*Rev Don Sellsted*

**\* Hymn:**

"Let All Things Now Living"

VU #242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

## **Celebrating**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

**\* Offertory: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

VU #541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

**We offer ourselves to you, O God, through these gifts  
and through our lives. Help us to see beyond the  
world's surface, building loving and respectful  
relationships with all of God's children. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn: "We are Marching in the Light of God" VU #646**

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
(the light of God.)  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)  
oo-oo, (marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.  
(the light of God.)  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)  
oo-oo, (marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

**\* 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 of Benediction: Go In Love**

D.Besig

*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

**Postlude**