



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH
9256 Commercial St., New Minas, NS
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ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, February 26th, 2023, 10:00 am
Black History Month
1st Sunday in Lent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:** "Gather Us In" MV #7

Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, gather us in,
ground us, ground us in you.

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

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship:

We have begun the first steps on our Lenten pathway.

Can we travel together?

On this journey we will join others on the road.

**It is good to have the strength of the community
with us.**

And on this journey, there will be times we travel alone.

**As we travel this Way of Jesus, we journey
together, but also alone.**

These are the passageways to our faith:

**To love God with all that we are,
to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.**

Reconnecting and strengthening our faith:

Loving Christ's call as stewards on the Way.

* **Hymn:** "My Lord, What a Morning" VU #708

**My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall.**

You'll hear the trumpet sound
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall. **R**

You'll hear the sinner cry
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall. **R**

You'll hear the Christian shout
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall. **R**

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Jesus Loves Me"

VU #365

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.'

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Minute for Mission

Scripture:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

Matthew 4:1-11 *The temptation of Jesus.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi *by W. Sim*
Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: Dressed Up for God *Rev. Don Sellsted*

*** Hymn:** "How Firm a Foundation" VU #600

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** "We Give Thee but Thine Own" VU #543

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.

May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first-fruits give.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**We do not live on bread alone, but by your Word,
loving God. May that Word fill our hearts and our
hands, all that we have, and all that we are, that it may
be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name, we ask it.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

* Litany of Diminishing Light:

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the pain of injustice in the world.

(the second purple candle is extinguished)

Even as the Christ-light shines, the world tries to hide the light of Love.

But we will not let our Love be hidden.

* Hymn: "My Life Flows On"

VU #716

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?
My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,

and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?

*** 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:**

The Lord Bless you and Keep You

P. Lutkin

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Postlude

This week's bulletin is sponsored by Sheila Francis

~ In loving memory of my husband, Rev. Ray Francis ~