



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 5th, 2023, 10:00 am

2nd Sunday in Lent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:** "Gather Us In"

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken.
Gather us in, the hurt and the shamed.
Call us now, and we shall awaken.
We shall arise at the sound of your name.

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:

What a gift, that in worship we draw so near to the presence of Christ.

That presence is alive in our very hands and hearts.

What a joy, that in this worship, we have such visible reminders of God:

in Scripture, in songs of faith, in the beauty of God's people together.

What a strength, that in this place our faith finds a home:
where God befriends us, and where we befriend one another.

So, for these reasons, and many more, we give God thanks and praise!

Come, let us worship God!

*** Hymn:** "New Every Morning"

VU #405

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies each returning day
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,

new treasures still of countless price
God will provide for sacrifice.
The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O God, in your dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Jesus, Friend of Little Children" VU #340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;

ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning to its end.

Minute for Mission

Scripture:

Psalm 121

I lift my eyes to the hills.

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus learns that “God so loved the world”.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music:

Lift Thine Eyes

by Mendelssohn

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

Born Again, and Again...

Rev Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:**

“Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

MV #150

Spirit God: be our breath,
be our song. Blow through us,
bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward,
defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride,
calm our fear. Comfort us.
When we know you are near
we grow more certain
our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice,
be our prayer. Reaching out,
joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through
friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath,
be our song. Blow through us,
bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge,
we'll greet the new dawn...
Spirit God, be our song.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** "We Give Thee but Thine Own" VU #543 vs.1

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.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**God of all creation, we know that all that we have,
all that we are, is blessed and blessing. In this
sharing, we add our blessing to yours. May all of
these blessings bring hope and healing to your
world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

* **Litany of Diminishing Light:**

As we continue our Lenten journey, we see more of Jesus' life...

(the third 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:** "I Feel the Winds of God Today" VU #625

I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

*** 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:**

“Amen”

VU #967

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Postlude