



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 19th, 2023, 10:00 am

4th Sunday in Lent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:**

“Gather Us In”

M. Haugen

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

Call to Action #9

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship:

The Lord is our shepherd. When I am feeling lost...

God leads us to the right path.

The Lord is our shepherd. When my soul need comfort...

God helps me to lie down in green pastures.

God leads me to rest by still waters.

The Lord is our shepherd. Even in times of trouble...

God's goodness and mercy surround us.

Here in God's eternal presence, let us worship.

*** Hymn:** "Be Thou My Vision"

VU #642

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "I Love to Tell the Story" VU #343

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **R**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **R**

Minute for Mission

Scripture:

Psalm 23

God is my shepherd.

John 9:1-25

Jesus heals the man born blind.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

The Shepherd Psalm

by J. Carter

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

Heart Work

Rev Don Sellsted

* Hymn:

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

VU #602

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

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 our desire to love as you love, we share with joy toward hope and healing of the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Litany of Diminishing Light:**

The events of Lent and our own personal reflections
constantly remind us that no matter where we are or what
has happened, God is here...

(the Fifth 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:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” VU #371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key

that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear. **R**

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share. **R**

*** 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

Postlude