



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 26th, 2023, 10:00 am
5th 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 #10

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship:

Our lives may feel disjointed like a valley of dry bones...

but the Spirit of God brings connection and stability to our lives.

The Spirit of God breathes hope into each of us...

and challenges us to be people of faith.

God open's our hearts and bring us light...

breaking us free from doubt and fear.

In this place, on this day, we let God embrace and uplift us in worship.

* **Hymn:** "This Is the Day"

VU #412

This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made.

Open to us, open to us
Your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
We will go in, we will go in,
To your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
We will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us your gate, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,

We will praise your name, we will praise your name;
We will give thanks, we will give thanks,
For your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
We will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God, we will praise your
name.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Like a Healing Stream" MV #144

Like a healing stream
In a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing
Life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
As in a dream unfolding,
Promising revival and rebirth...
Like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain
On a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come
To nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
To coax a new creation,

Yearning for an end to want and need...
Like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong
With a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on
To distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
In a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
Like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea
Reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love
Both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
To shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea,
Like a river strong,
Like a gentle rain,
Like a healing stream.

Call to Action #10

Scripture:

Romans 8:6-11

The Spirit is life, not death

John 11:1-45

The raising of Lazarus.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: **Breathe On Me, Breath of God** *Hatch/Jackson*
 Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: **Unbinding** *Rev Don Sellsted*

*** Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” VU #326

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

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, in our desire to love as you love, to live as you would have us live, we share with joy in the 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 and will help us if we ask.

(the Sixth 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:** “Thine is the Glory” VU #173

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. **R**

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless
love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **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