



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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 10:00 am

### Palm Sunday

#### Music as We Gather

#### Blessing of the Palms

Be in these hands, wands of joy, to celebrate the One  
**coming in the name of the Lord;**  
be here, instruments of faith,  
**beyond the common longing for our ways;**  
be for us, the wave of abandon,  
**to God's way of the cross**  
and the victory of love's  
**pure saving hope! Amen.**

#### Palm Procession (wave your palm branches!)

\* Hymn: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" VU #123

#### Gathering

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

This is the day the Lord has made.  
**God has made the Lord's light shine upon us. Let**  
**us rejoice and be glad in it.**

#### Recognition of the Land

#### \* Litany of Diminishing Light:

We have now experienced the five Sundays of Lent. In that time, we have seen how God hears and accepts our laments... Today, we join a parade of celebration, one that will unfold much differently than we can imagine..

*(the Palm Sunday 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: "All Glory, Laud and Honour" VU #122

#### \* 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

## Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

### \* Call to Worship:

Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the city.

**Come, let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.**

In the air, there is a sense of wonder and mystery,  
**of the Word being fulfilled.**

Jesus enters the city riding a colt and the crowds cry out,

**Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the  
name of the Lord.**

A new kind of leader is welcomed into Jerusalem,

**And is present amongst us now as we worship.**

### Opening Prayer

\*Hymn: "He Came Riding on a Donkey"

VU #124 vs. 1&2

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you ask us to endure suffering for  
your sake, but more often, we inflict it on others.  
You offer us dignity, and yet we take it from our  
neighbours. We reject the cornerstone as  
worthless, failing to see the world you are  
building. Help us to regain the mind of Christ, that  
we too may empty ourselves and be filled with  
your Spirit.**

### Affirmation

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in  
God's name, not to judge us, but to forgive and save us.

**We humble ourselves in gratitude and in service  
to others, even as Christ did. Hosanna in the  
highest. Amen!**

## Listening

### Children's Time / Time for all Ages:

#### The Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn: "And on This Path"

MV #8

#### Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: **Sing a Loud Hosanna**

M. Hates

*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

Message: **Parody Parade**

*Rev Don Sellsted*

\*Hymn: "My Song is Love Unknown"

VU #143

## Celebrating

### Offering of Our Gifts

\* Offertory: "What Can I Do?"

MV #191

#### Offertory Prayer:

**Creator God, in Jesus Christ you came, showing us that  
we achieve our greatest worth through service. Bless  
us and these offerings, symbols of our service, that your  
goodness may be more fully known through us and  
through them. May the food you provide be fully  
shared, that the earth and its Creator may be  
completely recognized, adored, and praised. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People