



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 9th, 2023, 10:00 am

Easter Sunday

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:** "Halle, Halle, Halle" VU #958

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Repeat x1

Lighting of the Christ Candle

At the first light of dawn, the women went to the tomb.

Are not our hearts burning within us?

And there they found...nothing?

Are not our hearts lighted with fire?!

An empty tomb! The grave-clothes lying on the ground!

Where is Jesus?!

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia! Amen!

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Call to Worship:

We come to this place, seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

The Living Christ meets us not only here, but surprises us with in all the places of our lives!

We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart, a story of loving triumph and overwhelming grace.

This story of “Hallelujah!” means great joy for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life in all the places of our lives!

We rejoice and give thanks for the life of God’s son, resurrected to us by the loving, vibrant Spirit.

Let the Spirit fill all the places of our lives, that we may know the truth of how love remains resurrected in all our lives!

We join our hearts in song and sing “Hallelujah, Gracious Jesus!” for Christ is living and so are we!

Hallelujah, Gracious Jesus! Hallelujah indeed!

As our voices and hallelujah’s ring out, let us sing with gladness into our worship now.

*** Hymn:** “Ring from Your Steeple” VU #403

Ring from your steeple, bells of gladness!

This is the day the world was born,

God's voice rang out across the darkness,
Light filled the sky that primal morn.

Ring from your steeple, bells of victory!
This is the day death's sting was drawn,
God's voice rang out, the tomb was empty,
Hope sprang alive that Easter morn.

Ring from your steeple, bells of power!
This is the day when, at the dawn,
God's voice rang out through wind and fire,
Fresh came the Spirit on that morn.

Ring from your steeple, bells of heaven!
This is the day when none shall mourn;
God's voice rings out this one in seven,
Joy fills the church this Sunday morn.

Holy Communion

Opening Prayer

As the leaves return to the trees,
so your love returns to your people.

**As the warmth returns to the land,
so your grace embraces us.**

As the migrant birds return to familiar waters,
so we return to old habits.

**God of new life, help us come to your ways of living,
and your embrace. Amen.**

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!" MV #121

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus loved people
and he made them friends:
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He called to the children
and the women and men.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus healed people
and he helped them be well.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He taught about God
in the stories he'd tell.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus loved people
and they said he was a king.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He turned all the tables
on everything.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus had power
and they took him away.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
They nailed him to a cross
and they killed him one day.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus loves people
and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples
and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Prayer of Confession

O God, help us!

Help us!

From a young woman's birth to a resurrection,

From walking on water to "Lazarus, come out!"

You embrace our scientific minds and our non-rational
thought.

You call us to believe the unbelievable.

Make us into your Easter people...

**that we might see your presence in all the life that
surrounds us.**

For this we believe:

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia.

Alleluia! Amen.

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 to God, and in service to others, even as Christ did. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!

Scripture:

Colossians 3:1-4

Set your mind on things above

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Mary and the empty tomb

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

He is Risen

N. Price/D. Besig

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

No Explanations

Rev Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:** "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" VU #179

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation. **R**

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen. **R**

We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever. **R**

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour. **R**

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:**

**As the rivers run, overflowing their banks, as the
rough bulb becomes a yellow daffodil, as the earth-
bound caterpillar turns into a winged butterfly, as
the empty tomb tells us that Christ is risen, so may
your love transform these gifts into abundant life,
abundant life for all. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” VU #155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
Who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
Suffer to redeem our loss Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!

Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
Sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
Our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
Now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
Where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
Praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
Praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

*** Commissioning and Benediction**

Go, with the Easter joy deep within your hearts.

Thanks be to God!

Go, with the Easter songs praising on your lips.

Thanks be to God!

Go, with the hopeful message of Easter clear in your
minds.

Thanks be to God!

Go, certain that in time and beyond time,
God's love is with you and will never leave you.

Thanks be to God!

Go, to share the love of God with all you meet. Amen.

***Hymn of Benediction: The Lord Bless You and Keep You**

P. Lutkin

Postlude