



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

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

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

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 and D. Besig

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

No Explanations

Rev Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:**

“Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks”

VU #179

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

*** 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

Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Postlude