



**ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 am

### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Music as We Gather**

#### **Gathering**

**Lighting of the Outreach, Unity, and Christ Candles**

**Recognition of the Land**

**Welcome and Announcements**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**Call to Worship:**

From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

**Big or small, good things can come from anyone!**

A little yeast can leaven the whole loaf of bread.

**We can create hope and peace in God's world.**

With even a little love, great and surprising wonders can grow.

**Our spirits soar in gratitude for the possibilities  
before us.**

Come, let us praise the God of astounding wonders.

**\* Hymn:** "God, We Praise You for the Morning" VU #415

God, we praise you for the morning;  
hope springs forth with each new day,

new beginning, prayer, and promise,  
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,  
mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing  
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,  
all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter,  
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,  
Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher,  
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,  
come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising,  
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Christ is Lord of our days!

## Opening Prayer

### Listening

## Children's Time / Time for all Ages

### The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

\* **Hymn:** "Love Is the Touch"

MV #89

Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
Love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud;  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed;  
God is where love is, for the love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
Love is the will to be whole once again;  
Love is the trust of a friend on the road;  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
Love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
Love is the path which the saints all have trod;  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Scripture:**

Romans 8:26–39 ..... *The Spirit intercedes for us when we cannot pray.*

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52 ..... *The Five parables.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:**

**Tree of Life**

*Rev. Don Sellsted*

**\* Hymn:** “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

VU #271 vs.1,2,4,5

There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

**\* Offertory:**                      “What Can I Do?”                      MV #191

O What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**We give these gifts to the service you call us to. Let the gifts we offer grow beyond our imagination. We are ever thankful for your Spirit to move and inspire us to serve you through serving others. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn:**                      “You Shall Go Out With Joy”                      VU #884

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)

the trees of the field will clap their hands  
(clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.

**\* 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**

**Postlude**