



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 27, 2023, 10:00 am

Thirteenth 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:

Welcome! It is great to have you with us today.

It's good to be here, seeking peace for our hearts.

God is with us, embracing us with wondrous healing love.

It's good to be here, seeking rest for our souls.

In this community, the Spirit draws us together.

It's good to be here, seeking community for our spirits.

Here in worship, we seek our eyes to be opened to the Jesus within us all.

*** Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" VU #371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key

that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear. **R**

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share. **R**

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

*** Hymn:**

"Like a Rock"

MV #92

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Scripture:

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13–20*Who do you say that I am? asks Jesus.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: Walking in Faith with Our Lord

By Price and Besig

Offered by Thea Burton and Carmen Peng

Message: “You are the Rock” Rev. Don Sellsted

*** Hymn: “When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides” MV #169**

When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
Our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** "Grant Us, God, the Grace" VU #540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**Inspiring God, you call us to be your people. You call
us worthy. You shower us with your amazing love.
With gratitude we ask that you help us to be your
rock, showing us all we can achieve through a
foundation of generosity. Receive not only our gifts
but also receive us, the givers. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “We Have This Ministry”

VU #510

We have this ministry
and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power
that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word,
speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world
may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

O Christ, the tree of life,
our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower
when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,
called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts,
the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

The yoke of Christ is ours,
the whole world is our parish;
we daily take the cross,
the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve,
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,
we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

*** 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