



**ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7  
Rev. Don Sellsted – Minister, Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge



**Re-dedication of  
Orchard Valley United Church  
and  
Celebration of a Covenant between  
Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge,  
Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte,  
and The Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council  
of the United Church of Canada  
Sunday, September 17, 2023, 2:00 pm**

**Gathering Outside**

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Land**

**Blessing of Holy Ground**

**Gathering Inside**

**\* Introit:** “What is the Place” *Songs for A Gospel People*

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you!**

**Call to Worship:**

Friends, scripture teaches us that the Church is the body  
of Christ, the household of God,

**Christ being the head and cornerstone.**

We gather as one in Christ's name to rejoice with Orchard  
Valley United Church,

**and to dedicate this renovated and expanded  
church building, in Christ's service.**

Come, let us worship God,

**celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit  
at work through us in this sacred place.**

**Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide"**

**MV #145**

**Refrain:**

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms. **R**

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call. **R**

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,

open every door. **R**

## **Prayer**

## **Welcome**

**Chair of Council**

**Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk**

**Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council President**

**Shauna MacDonald**

## **Statement of Purpose - Our Journey**

## **Greetings**

**Rev. Gloria Churchill**

**Rev. Ivan Norton**

**Hymn:** “Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary” MV# 18 x3

Lord, prepare me  
to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy  
tried and true;  
with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living  
sanctuary for you.

## **Blessing of the Building**

To the glory of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

For the service of God in praise and prayer,

for the preaching of the Gospel,

for the wisdom of our Hebrew texts,

and for the celebration of the Sacraments,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

To comfort all who mourn,  
to guide the perplexed,  
and to strengthen those who are tempted,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

To hallow our relationships with God and one another,  
to teach young and old, and to nourish all who believe,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

To love all of God's people, the young and the not so  
young, people of every ethnicity and heritage, all of us in  
our varied and beautiful gender identity and expression,  
ability, and economic status,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

For the good of all creation, for this community and  
nation, for the extension of God's love throughout the  
world, and for the healing that love brings,

**we re-dedicate this house.**

## **Declarations**

In the name of Jesus, our Christ, we declare and re-  
dedicate this house, Orchard Valley United Church, and all  
it contains, to continue to be dedicated to the service of  
God.

**We again dedicate ourselves to follow Christ,  
promising to care for this building and all it  
contains, for the glory and service of God.**

**Hymn:** "Let's Build a House"

MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **R**

Let us build a house where love is found,  
in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us; **R**

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear

the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **R**

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **R**

## **Celebration of Covenant**

### **Prayer**

### **The New Creed**

### **Hebrew Scripture**

Ruth 1:16

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

### **Reflection:**

Rev. Don Sellsted

### **Special Music:**

**I Giorni**

*by Ludovico Einaudi*

**Shoreless**

*by Ari Snyder (Linda's Partner)*

### **Presider, David Hewitt:**

We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate  
the ministry and to covenant together for the service of  
God in this place.

**Clerk of Session, Thea Burton:**

We present Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte who has been appointed to the Ministry of Youth and Young Families for the Orchard Valley United Church. We believe she is qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

**Presider, David Hewitt:**

Linda, you are here in response to the need of the Orchard Valley United Church, and by action of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship among you, the Region and the Pastoral Charge. May the God who has given us the will to do these things give us the power and the grace to perform them.

**Covenanting Action**

**Statement of this New Ministry**

**Presider, David Hewitt:**

Linda, you are about to undertake the ministry of Youth and Young Families in this place. You, the members of this pastoral charge are invited to join her in worship, study, prayer and action. We the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, will be responsible for the support and accountability of this ministry. Let us ask for God's grace as we covenant together this day. Let us pray:

Gracious God, by our baptism you have called us to Christ's ministry; pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as we commit ourselves to work together for Christ's name. Amen

## **Promises of the New Minister**

Do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

**I do.**

Will you accept the discipline of United Church of Canada?

**I will, by the grace of God.**

Together with the regional council and its other members, be responsible for the support and accountability of the church's life?

**I will, by the grace of God.**

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this Pastoral Charge and this Region?

**I will, by the grace of God.**

## **Promises of the Pastoral Charge**

*Members of the Pastoral Charge please rise in body or in spirit.*

Will you join with Linda in a ministry of worship, teaching, mentoring, prayer, and action within this pastoral charge and the world?

**Yes, we will by the grace of God.**

Will you support her as she serves among you in this ministry?

**Yes, we will, by the grace of God.**

## **Promises of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council**

*Members of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region please rise in body or in spirit.*

Will you, as members of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, join with Linda and Orchard Valley United Church in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

**Yes, we will by the grace of God.**



Will you exercise support for this community of faith as it fulfills its work and witness through its living faith story?

**Yes, we will by the grace of God.**

## **Presentation of Symbols**

### **Member of M&P committee - Children's Bible**

Be among us as one who celebrates the Creator's grace through Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Member of Christian Development Committee - Curriculum Book**

Be among us as one who mentors and teaches through word and action.

**Amen.**

### **Member of Affirming Committee - Affirm Candle**

Be among us as one who celebrates Orchard Valley's Affirming Ministry.

**Amen.**

### **Children - Orange T-shirt**

Be among us as one who believes Every Child Matters.

**Amen.**

**Youth:** "This Little Light of Mine"

## **Declaration of Covenant**

**Presider, David Hewitt:**

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, I declare this covenant to be established.

**Thanks be to God!**

Let us all rejoice in the covenant we have made.

**Amen**

Linda, welcome to our ministry team!

## **Our Journey Continues**

**Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 15:58

**Message:**                      **Into the Future**

**Choir Anthem:**    **Stronger With Time**      *By Carl Strommen*  
*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer**    *offered by Orchard Valley Ukulele Ensemble*

**Commission**

**Hymn:**                      "We Are Pilgrims"                      VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

### **Benediction**

Peace be to all who worship here.  
Peace be to all who enter here,  
and to all who go out from here.  
Peace be to all who love this place,  
and who love in God's name.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**\*Hymn of Benediction:      Days of Elijah**

*Offered by Orchard Valley Steeple Strummers*