



# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 am

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Music as We Gather

#### Gathering

\* **Introit:** “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” *by Brian Doerksen*

**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:**

Holy God, be with us in all of our journeys...

**From near and from far and histories unknown**

Be with us in strength and in weakness...

**The lost and forsaken, the proud and the strong**

Be with us in all of our beings...

**Where life in all our genders can truly belong.**

Be with us in all of our actions...

**Fulfilling your promised home where all people  
come.**

Be with us in all of our hopes...

**That rest will come in your love when all are as  
one.**

With open hearts, be with us today in worship.

**\* Hymn:** "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV #79

**Refrain:**

**Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender. **R**

Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. **R**

May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another. **R**

**Opening Prayer**

**Listening**

**Learning With Our Children**

**The Lord's Prayer**

VU #910

**\* Hymn:** "Are You a Shepherd?"

MV #126

Are you a shepherd,  
good shepherd who leads us  
safely through danger,  
while calming our fears?  
Are you a father  
who shelters and feeds us,  
shares in our laughter  
and wipes away tears?

**Refrain:**

**Yes, you are shepherd,  
parent and teacher,  
but you are greater  
than all that we know.  
Holy and living,  
loving and giving,  
God, you are with us  
wherever we go.**

Are you a mother,  
good mother who bears us,  
comforts, protects us  
and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher  
who daily prepares us,  
challenging students  
to offer their best? **R**

Great, gentle shepherd,  
forever beside us,  
lead all your children  
in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent,  
wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you  
and bring you delight. **R**

## **Minute for Mission**

### **Scripture:**

Romans 8:31-39 ..... *God's Love in Christ Jesus.*

Matthew 25:14-30 ..... *The parable of the talents.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Special Music:**

### **Lift Thine Eyes**

*Mendelssohn*

*Arr. J. Bertalot*

*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

### **Message:**

### **Our Remembering Month**

### **Lament and Proclamation**

### **\* Hymn:**

**"O for a World"**

**VU #697**

O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,

where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.

0 for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

## Celebrating

## Offering of Our Gifts

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

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:**

**Loving God, Creator and Sustainer, help us to cherish and celebrate your wondrous creation, and all the**

**blessings we have received. It is with joyful hearts that we dedicate these gifts to your service. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn:**      “God be with you till we meet again”      VU #422

God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

### **Refrain:**

**Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.**

God be with you till we meet again;  
unseen wings protecting hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again. **R**

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again. **R**

God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again. **R**

**\* 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!**

**\*Choral Benediction:**                      **Amen**                      VU #967

**Postlude**