



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023, 10:00 am

2nd Sunday in Advent

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* **Introit:** "Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

J. Raney

Lighting of the Outreach, Unity, and Christ Candles

Second Candle of Advent

Advent is marked by a spirit of yearning for peace.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among nations.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among ethnicities and colours.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace in our hearts and in our lives.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

* **Hymn:** "Hope is a Star"

VU #7 vs.2

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Call to Worship:

Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness...

Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

Something new is about to happen.

God will visit God's people in a new way once again!

We open our hearts to receive this good news...

prepared to be people of great compassion!

Let us be filled with gladness as we continue in our worship.

*** Hymn:** "Hark the Glad Sound!"

VU #29

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,

and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

*** Hymn:** "I've Got Peace like a River"

VU #577

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

Membership Transfer

Statement of Purpose:

Presentation:

Clerk of Session:

On behalf of the congregation of Orchard Valley United Church, and by approval of the Orchard Valley United Church Council, I present Dawn Boudreau, Lois Tracy and David Tracy whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer of membership.

Commitment of Members:

Minister: Will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice, and resist evil?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Commitment of Congregation:

Minister: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to Orchard Valley United Church these persons our support and care.

All: As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Clerk of Session:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in Orchard Valley United Church. We give thanks to God for your witness among us. Welcome home!

Blessing:

Minister: The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you, today and always.

All: Amen.

The New Creed

Scripture:

Isaiah 40:1–11..... *Comfort, O comfort my people.*

Mark 1:1–8..... *The preaching of John the baptizer.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

Song of Mary

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

Hazel Sticks

Rev Don Sellsted

* **Hymn:** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

VU #18

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:

prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** “In the Bleak Midwinter” VU #55 vs.4

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**Holy God, we bring these gifts to you, thankful for all
the ways you have healed and enriched our lives. May
these gifts be used in service to which we have been
called in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “I Am the Light of the World” VU #87

*** Commissioning**

*** Benediction**

May God's love increase our love for one another;
May Jesus teach us how to live in God's ways;
and may the Spirit strengthen our hearts,

as you ready yourselves for Jesus' birth once again.
We go in peace to love and serve, this day, and everyday.
And the people said... **Amen!**

***Benediction:**

Amen

VU #967

Postlude