



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 10:00 am

3rd Sunday in Advent

Pageant

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* **Introit:** **Come, Lord Jesus, Come** *by J. Raney*

(Orchard Valley United Church Choir sings):

Aimless searching, lost in the night,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Deep in the darkness, longing for light,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

(Congregation joins Choir): x2

Come, thou long expected Jesus,

Born to set thy people free;

From our sins and fears release us;

Let us find our rest in thee.

(Choir sings):

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Second Candle of Advent

Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming of Jesus.
Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming of Jesus.
Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

*** Hymn:** "Hope is a Star" VU #7 vs.3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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:

In drama and dress-up,

the ancient story comes to life.

Mary and Joseph receive divine messages and travel to
Bethlehem.

Shepherds leave their flocks at night.

Wise Magi follow a star.

Let us journey to the manger in heart and mind.

May imagination, faith, and joy be our guide.

And may peace be upon us all.

Let us worship!

*** Hymn:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

VU #35

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forever
more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Opening Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

VU #910

Listening

The Voyager’s Pageant:

“The Completely Miraculous First Chrismukkah”

Written by: Nancy Denton-Peck
Adapted by: Ari Snyder

Starring: Guests from the Town of Bethlehem
& The Voyager Players

Congregational Hymns sung during the play:

* "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" VU #48

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise,

join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in

Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come,

offspring of a Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,

Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of
Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

* "Away in a Manger" VU #69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there

* "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU #60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem:
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light!
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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 wiseman, I would do my part;
Yet what 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.

*** Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World"**

VU #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

*** Commissioning**

*** Benediction**

May God's love increase our love for one another;
May Jesus teach us 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 hope, peace, and joy to love and serve,
this day, and everyday.
And the people said... **Amen!**

*** Benediction Hymn** "Amen"

VU #967

Postlude

**This week's Worship Bulletin
Is sponsored in memory of
~ Mary Craig ~
From a Friend**