



# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 10:00 am

### Cantata for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

#### Music as We Gather

#### Gathering

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

*by J.Raney*

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.

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

#### Recognition of the Land

#### Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you!**

#### Call to Worship

Look! Feel the Warmth of the love God is placing among  
us.

**Love? God's love is here, there just seems so little  
time for it right now.**

There's always time to gather in the love of God and the  
love of one another.

**Taking time to Love is hard when we are so  
anxious and concerned about what may come.**

A long time ago, people were anxious and worried about  
the future, and God brought to them Love in the flesh.

**God brings that Love to us today and always!  
Hallelujah and AMEN.**

**Holy Communion**

*see insert*

## **Cantata**

### **What Sweeter Music**

*by M.Hayes*

“Opening Medley”

*OVUC Choir*

“Promise of Peace”

*OVUC Choir*

## **Learning With Our Children**

### **Fourth Candle of Advent**

Advent is a time to celebrate God’s Love.

**God’s love is pure.**

We celebrate by loving our neighbours as ourselves.

**God’s love is everlasting.**

We celebrate by loving God with all our hearts.

**God’s love is unconditional.**

We celebrate by spreading God’s love to a world in need.

**God’s love is freely given to all.**

## **Lighting the Candle of Love**

### **What Sweeter Music** *continues...*

“Song of Mary”

*Soloist: Thea Burton*

\* “Cradle Medley”

*OVUC Choir &  
Congregation*

*Congregation:*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

\* “Song of the Angels”

*OVUC Choir &  
Congregation*

*Congregation:*

The first Nowell, the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay.  
In fields where the lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep,  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel.

“We Three Kings”

*OVUC Choir*

**Celebrating Giving**

**Offering 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 can I give him - give my heart.

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

**Holy God, as the music of the season sings in our heart and soul, we acknowledge that we are a people bountiful with our time, plentiful with our talent, and generous with our treasure. May all that we are be used in service to which we have been called in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**What Sweeter Music** *continues...*

**\* “Closing Medley”**

*OVUC Choir &  
Congregation*

*Congregation:*

Joy to the World! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

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.

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!

Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation.  
Oh sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## **Going Out**

### **Commissioning & Benediction**

Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime;

**Therefore, we must live by hope.**

Nothing true or beautiful makes complete sense in any  
immediate context of history;

**Therefore, we must live by faith.**

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished  
alone;

**Therefore, we live by love.**

**Benediction Hymn:** "AMEN"

VU# 967

This week's Worship Bulletin is sponsored by  
Mary MacDonald  
**in loving memory of Vernon MacDonald**  
*Love, Mary & Family*

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here. This table is open to all.

### **The Invitation**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

We lift up our hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Breath of Peace, Giver of all life,  
Bringer of Joy, Source of Love that knows no boundaries.  
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;  
throughout the ages, your song of liberation has infused us  
with your hope for a world where:

those considered last and least are first and most;  
violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love;  
and all work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth,  
and send prophets to awaken us  
to your approaching Advent.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,  
have the strength and courage  
to give birth to your love in the world;

for those who, like the shepherds,  
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;  
for those who, like the Magi,  
actively challenge oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us  
in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross,  
in tenderness and compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,  
**“O come, Emmanuel.”**

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,  
we proclaim your goodness.

At this time, we also remember  
all with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...

all who are ill or alone...

all who are close to our hearts...

all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...

all who live under the threat of domestic violence...

all who live without a home...

all whose lives have been shattered by violence or racism,  
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries,  
for nations as they strive for peace and justice,  
for an end to violence against women.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,  
this wine the medium of our transformation,  
this table the foundation of our renewal,  
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

And now, we remember Jesus,  
Who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
**“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”**

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,  
**“This is the new covenant; remember me.”**

Gracious God, Breath of peace,  
Source of love,  
we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.**

**Make us, though broken, whole.**

**Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the  
prayer of Jesus:

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Sharing The Bread And Cup**

The body of Christ,  
**the Bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ,  
**the cup of blessing.**

Let us eat and drink together  
for our strengthening in the faith,  
and for the sake of the world.

## **Communion is Served**



## **Prayer After Communion**

We thank you, God,  
**for breaking into our world  
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.**

We thank you, God,  
**for this meal of thanksgiving  
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells.  
Amen.**