



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH
130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31st, 2023, 10:00 am

1st Sunday after Christmas

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:** "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 forevermore.
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!

Lighting the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Call to Worship:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

For out of God's own being, Jesus has come to bring peace, understanding, and love to all people.

Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, come to gather our tears and laughter, our work, and our play, into God's loving embrace.

Jesus came to encourage and inspire God's longing for a world of kindness and compassion.

And so, let us be Christ to the world and one another.

*** Hymn: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" VU #75**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring

to you and humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.'

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

* **Hymn:** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
Angels, from the realms of glory,

VU #36

wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: **R**

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: **R**

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: **R**

Minute for Mission

Scripture:

Luke 2:22-40*Jesus is presented in the temple.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Offered by Cupido Daniels

Message: Are you up for another year?

Offered by Rev Don Sellsted

*** Hymn: “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”**

VU #43

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

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:**

**Gifted by your grace, we offer you what you have
given us, O God, and pray that these gifts may be
used for the sharing of love, the doing of justice,
and the giving of peace. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*** 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 Saviour 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 earth 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**

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!**

***Benediction:** **Amen**

offered by Cupido Daniels

Postlude