



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 28th, 2024, 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Introit:** "I am the Light of the World" VU #87 vs.1

REFRAIN:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way
home, the work of Christmas is begun. **R**

Lighting the Outreach, Unity, and Christ Candle

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Centring Music

Call to Worship:

Through the Spirit, God speaks into our hearts.

The word of God inspires us!

Through the voices of the prophet, God proclaimed the way to live.

The voice of the prophet amazes us!

Through the witness of Jesus, God offered us new life.

The words and ways of Jesus astounds us!

Let us continue our worship in awe and wonder.

* **Hymn:** “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” VU #578

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness

mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

*** Hymn:** "Jesus' Hands were Kind Hands"

VU #570

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Call to Action #19

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 8:1-6 *Concerning food offered to idols.*

Mark 1:21–28 *A Man with an unclean spirit is healed.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

God's Peace

Dawn & Adams

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

Astounding!

*** Hymn:** "Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit" VU #620

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!"
cried God's healing Holy One.
"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it;
flee as night before the sun."
At Christ's words the demon trembled,
from its victim madly rushed,
while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder,
stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving
in the gray cells of the mind:
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,
doubts that stir the heart to panic,
fears distorting reason's sight,
guilt that makes our loving frantic,
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit
in our mind and in our heart;
speak your word that when we hear it,
all our demons shall depart.
Clear our thought and calm our feeling;
still the fractured, warring soul.
By the power of your healing

make us faithful, true and whole.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** “Grant Us, God, the Grace”

VU #540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Inspiring God, fill us with a sense of awe and purpose. We dedicate these gifts as we commit our lives to you and all you have created, and that we will be astounded by all that we can accomplish through your love of truth and justice. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145

Refrain:

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. **R**

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. **R**

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. **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!**

***Benediction Hymn:**

"Amen"

VU #967

Postlude