



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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00am

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

# Communion Sunday

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

### Gathering

**\*Introit:** "We Wait For God" (vs. 4) *W. Kerwin*

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Recognition of the Land**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**Centreing Music**

**Lighting the Second Candle of Advent**

The first candle on the Advent wreath was the candle for Hope. *Candle of Hope is lit...*

The second candle reminds us to pray and work for peace. Through the Holy Spirit, we look for the signs of God's peace in the world. Peace is not merely the absence of fighting or war. True peace is much more. Peace is the restoration of relationships within creation and between peoples and nations to their true order, which bring glory to their Creator. *Candle of Peace is lit...*

**Holy and life-giving God, we give thanks for your Son, the "Prince of Peace". It is for peace that we strive to imitate Him in thought, word, and deed.**

**Let us seek to be peacemakers in our homes, in the community, and in the world. Thank you, God, for Your peace, which passes all understanding. Come Jesus, Come. Amen.**

**Sung Response:** "A Candle is Burning" VU #6 vs.2

**\*Call to Worship:**

Peace, in the midst of war. Peace, in the midst of conflict. Peace in the midst of all that divides. When so much is going badly, God offers peace.

**We come seeking God's peace. We come seeking to be made whole. We come seeking to be reconciled. We come from the four winds seeking and knowing God is with us.**

Let us pray for "God with us", for the courage to be peaceful, and for that peace that must begin to make sense to the world.

**\*Hymn:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" VU #44

**Opening Prayer**

### Listening

**Learning With Our Children**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "I've Got Peace Like a River" VU #577

**Holy Communion (please see insert)**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture:**

Philippians 1:3-11..... *I thank God every time I remember you*  
 Luke 3:1-6..... *A voice calling in the desert*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** "Prepare the Way"  
*offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

**Message:**            **Unfinished Business**     *Rev. Don Sellsted*

**\*Hymn:**            "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"     VU #18

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

**\*Offertory:**            "In the Bleak Midwinter"     VU #55 vs.4

### **\*Offertory Prayer:**

**On this Sunday, in the light of the Advent candle of peace, may you breathe your Spirit into us, blessing what we offer in our lived hope for peace. In our giving, may we be inspired to follow the Way of Jesus in our living, as we choose to mend a divide world. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**\*Hymn:**            "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"     VU #43

### **\*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!**

**Postlude:**            **"Go Now in Peace"**     *Price/Besig*