



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 10, 2025, 10:00 am

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **Gathering**

*** Congregational Introit: "Come, We That Love" VU #715**
vs.1 (2nd tune)

Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.

*** Lighting of the Outreach, Unity and Christ Candles**

As we light these outreach and unity candles, let them be a reminder of the light we cast when we choose to treat all people with faith, hope, love, and gentleness.

All People are welcome into the fullness and participation in our life of faith.

Christ came among us in the form of God, but chose to come as one of us, humble and obedient. Let the light of this Christ Candle inspire our gentleness to be known to all people.

Recognition of the Land

Today, as we remember what it means to love as Jesus loves, let us give thanks for the Indigenous peoples of this land. We recognize today that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and

unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. As Christ's people, let us be people of Truth, unity, and of Reconciliation.

Welcome and Announcements

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

- Covenanter Summer Series - Summer services at the Covenanter Church, Grand Pre will begin July 6 at 11am. Services will continue weekly until August 31st with Guest speakers and special music. Everyone is welcome!
- Greenwich Community Centre is seeking donations of books, boardgames and bookshelves. We are seeking to start a little free library and host boardgame nights, coffees and socials. Please reach out to Christina Sappington if you have anything to offer. Thank you.

Centring Music

Call to Worship

We trust in God,

and so we hope in God.

We hope in our God,

and so we offer our hearts, so our God may fill them with grace.

Every time, we trust, we hope, we come to God,

God is waiting for us . . . every time.

Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing VU#559

Come, O Fount of every blessing,

tune my heart to sing your grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing

call for songs of endless praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Opening Prayer

Now faith is
the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
We come convinced of many things
but trusting very few.

Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here, in this place as
we touch that which we cannot see, that which we have not
dared to hope.

Listening

Time for All Ages:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thyne is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

*** Hymn:** Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary (x3) MV#18

Lord, prepare me
to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy
tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, your Word is living and active. It humbles the proud and lifts up the weary. As we read and reflect today, open our ears to hear your voice. Help us recognize your kingdom in the teachings of Jesus, and give us grace to live them out in our daily lives. Amen.

Scripture:

Genesis 15:1–6.....God's Covenant with Abram

Psalms 33:12-22..... Our Help and Shield

Hebrews 11:1-16.....The Meaning of Faith

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message:

Rev Max Martin

*** Hymn:** When We Are Living

VU#581

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

Let our giving reflect the desire of our hearts for justice, kindness, and humility. Let us share our treasure with all those who need it, both in our community and, through Mission and Service, in the world, as we accept our morning offering.

*** 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.
(Repeat x1)

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Spirit of Life, giver of every perfect gift, we offer our thanks for this life and its gifts. Bless these offerings and those given outside this time of worship. May our contributions both here and in every part of our lives—our time, our skills and our money—work towards a world of justice and peace. We pray that it be so, through the ministries of this congregation and the work we do together through Mission and Service. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Creator of the light:
when our sins stain our lives, you dissolve them with your

mercy; when our souls become calloused by the hardness of our hearts, your grace makes them as soft as a cashmere sweater, so we can be dressed to serve others.

Creative Word:

when you had enough of our hollow words and empty promises, you came to listen to the echoes of your hope deep within our hearts.

When you became bored with our endless meetings and petty squabbles, you took delight in our willingness to follow you.

Breath of Creation:

when we could be sitting at home watching television, you encourage us to rest in stillness with the grieving.

When we could be out shopping, you nudge us to share our abundance with the poor and needy.

When we could be relaxing in our achievements, you sit us down next to a child, struggling to read.

God in Community, Holy in One, as we seek to grow in our faith, hear us as we pray. Amen.

* **Hymn:** Give to the Winds Thy Fear VU#636

Give to the winds your fears.

Hope and be undismayed.

God hears your sighs and counts your tears.

God shall lift up your head,

God shall lift up your head.

Through waves and clouds and storms,

God gently clears your way.

Wait for the time, so shall this night
soon end in joyous day,
soon end in joyous day.

Even though you do not rule,
yet heaven and earth and hell
proclaim God sits upon the throne,
and rules o'er all things well,
and rules o'er all things well.

Your everlasting truth,
O God, your ceaseless love,
sees all your children's wants, and knows
what best for each will prove,
what best for each will prove.

*** Commissioning**

By faith, let us go out as God's people.

We will gather others around us and dance into God's kingdom.

By faith, let us go to follow Jesus to serve with compassion and grace.

We will share the good news of hope and peace with everyone we meet.

By faith, let us go to join the Holy Spirit in welcoming all of God's children.

We will add as many chairs as are needed, so all may feast on God's love.

*** Benediction**

Children of God, by faith, God has brought us this far. Go now in the blessing of the God who goes before you and behind you, surrounding you on all sides with grace as we journey toward a better country in our neighborhood, our community, and beyond. And all the people said....**Amen!**

*** Congregational Benediction:** **“Amen”** VU #967

Postlude