



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 17, 2025, 10:00 am

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost **Gathering**

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

*** 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.**

- There will be a congregational meeting after church next Sunday in order to vote on if and how to proceed with our partnership with Open Arms to assist the underhoused community during the woods ban, please be there to make your voice heard.
- 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

Long ago a vineyard was planted. The ground was prepared, and all was made ready:

But the vines grew wild, the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.

What happened in that place of promise?

**People forgot the One who planted the vineyard.
They chose their own ways and failed.**

Let us again turn to the Lord, who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.

Let us open our hearts to God, trusting in God's ways and God's word. Amen.

Hymn: Lead On, O Cloud of Presence VU#421

1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

2 Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's
demand.

Opening Prayer

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:** O Beautiful Gaia MV#41

Refrain:

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

1. Soil yielding its harvest,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Soil yielding its harvest,

calling us on.

2. Waves crashing on granite,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Waves crashing on granite,
calling us on.

3. Pine bending in windstorm,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm,
calling us on.

4. Loon nesting in marshland,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland,
calling us on.

Prayer for Illumination

Special Music: Be Not Far From Me- N. Zingarelli *performed*
by Thea Burton

Scripture:

Isaiah 5:1-7The Song of the Vineyard

Hebrews 11:29-12:2Faith and the Example of Jesus

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message: What Is and What Could Be *Rev. Max Martin*

*** Hymn:**

Crashing Water at Creation

VU#449

Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

2

Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage -
channel to a life made new.

3

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

4

Living water, never ending,

quench the thirst and flood the soul.

Wellspring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness,
make us whole.

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.
(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

*** Hymn:** Dance With the Spirit MV#156
Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,
walk* with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

*** Commissioning**

*** Benediction**

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

And all the people said....**Amen!**

*** Congregational Benediction:** **"Amen"** VU #967

Postlude