



# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:00 am

### Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### Music as We Gather

#### Gathering

**\* Congregational Introit:** "You Are Loved" *Mary-Ellen Kish*

You are loved. You are light. You are blessed.

Let us join the call.

There is love. There is light. There is hope to be shared.

Worship in Love, Love Divine, Love within.

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

#### Recognition of the Land

#### Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### Centring Music

#### Call to Worship:

We come to this place to worship our God with gladness,

**And we'll make a joyful noise.**

We come to this place with open hearts and minds.

**We come to this place with joyfulness and praise as  
we worship our God with a song.**

**\* Hymn:**            “This is God’s Wondrous World”            VU #296

This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Listening**

### **Learning With Our Children**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**\* Hymn:** "Over My Head" MV #88

Over my head, I hear music in the air. **(3X)**  
There must be a God somewhere.

1.

When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of live are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

(Additional verses):

2. When the winds of strife are blowin'
3. When the tide of hate is risin'

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

##### **Scripture:**

Psalm 96:1, 10-13 *"Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice"*  
Ephesians 5:15-20 *"Be filled with the Spirit"*

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Contemporary Reading

**Anthem:**                ***“God So Loved the World”***

*Stainer*

*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

**Message:**            ***“The Practice of Singing”***

*Rev. Gloria Churchill*

*“When Long Before Time” (Seated)    VU #248*

1 When long before time and the worlds were begun,  
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,  
and even our Maker had only a dream...

2 ...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,  
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,  
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,  
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

3 The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,  
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;  
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

4 Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,  
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,  
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,  
our God-Is-with-Us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;

so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory for ever, through life and through death

*"Ode to Joy"* (Standing)

VU #232

1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

3 You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!

Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

**Music from "Albinoni's Adagio in G minor"**  
***Offered by Elizabeth Sircom, Cello***

*"Spirit of Life" X2 (Seated)*

VU #381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**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:**

**Source of everything there is, these gifts we bring  
in celebration of all our many blessings as we seek  
to share our blessings with others. Bless these  
monetary gifts as well as our gifts of time and  
talent now we pray and may they be used in your  
service. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "O Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

VU #400

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

## **Prayers of the People**

**\* Hymn:** "We Are a Rainbow"

*'Then Let Us Sing' Hymn Book*

Verse 1:

We're the light of all the world,  
we are a city on a hill,  
we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light.  
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,  
we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright

**Chorus:**

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace  
for the flood of tears will fin'lly cease to be,  
come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across  
the sky,  
paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

**Verse 2:**

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different  
threads,  
cov'ring all in warmth, in welcome and in grace.  
God said, "Let there be light," created every varied shade.  
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright. **R**

**Verse 3:**

We are Hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day.  
We are Peace in a world that's torn apart.  
We are Joy that will last in all the struggles that we face.  
We are Love that blooms and grows in every heart. **R**

**Verse 4:**

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,  
for our God will be with us on the way.  
Here we are, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore  
as the mourning night of tears breaks into day. **R**  
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.



**Sending Forth: AMEN!**

**\* Congregational Hymn of Benediction:**

“Go Now In Peace” *(Besig)*

**Postlude**