



# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 10:00 am

## Fifteenth 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.

### Recognition of the Land

### Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Response:** "We Are a Rainbow" vs. 1 & refrain

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.

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.

## **Centring Music**

### **Call to Worship:**

We come together as a community of faith,

**Make us curious to your ways, O God.**

As we sing, pray, speak, and listen,

**Make us curious to your ways, O God.**

As we seek ways of understanding about you and about ourselves,

**Fill our minds with curiosity and openness. Amen.**

\* **Hymn:**           “Creator God, You Gave Us Life”           MV #27

Creator God you gave us life,  
your image formed within our souls,  
yet through the mist of time and space,  
we search for that which makes us whole.

### ***Refrain***

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,  
and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page,  
we comprehend your mystery.**

In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,  
we see your great diversity,  
yet greater still we see your love,  
expressed in our humanity. **R**

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,  
we share our gifts with all the world,  
our spirits soar beyond the veil,  
to touch the very face of God. **R**

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Listening**

## **Learning with our Children**

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

\* **Hymn:**                    "Teach Me God to Wonder"                    VU #299

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;  
let your world of beauty capture me.

**Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,  
life be celebrated, joy you give.**

Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;  
let your world of people speak to me. **R**

Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,  
in your world of loving my place take. **R**

Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,  
see you in my neighbour when we meet. **R**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture:**

Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:4-6

Matthew 7:7-8

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Contemporary Reading**

**Anthem:                “My Savior Leadeth Me”**

*Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir*

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

*Rev. Gloria Churchill*

**\*Hymn:                “There in God’s Garden”**

VU #346

There in God’s garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nation;  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, ‘Our Saviour!’  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,  
nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing.'

This is my ending, this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!'  
Amen! My Saviour

## **Celebrating**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

**\* Offertory:** "When We are Living" VU #581

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.

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

**For the gifts of this community of faith and for the  
willingness and the many ways to share these gifts  
we give thanks, Holy One. We ask your blessings on  
our offerings and us, we pray. 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:** “Creator, Spirit, Living Word” VU #531

Creator, Spirit, living Word,  
one God who calls us here:  
be with your people on this day;  
your presence bring us cheer.

This house of God, built to your praise,  
we dedicate to you.  
Accept the work of many hands,  
the plan and purpose true.

Here at this font may parents see  
the water from above,  
and at your table may we share  
the bread and wine of love.

When in this place your people stand  
as husband joined to wife;  
and when, bereaved, they bow in prayer:  
give them your peace and life.

Here may your love be clearly preached  
by pulpit and by pew.  
May we unite in hymn and song  
to covenant with you.

May young and old be taught your word;  
our church discern your way;  
each person here your temple be  
and see your glorious day.

**Sending Forth...AMEN!**

**Commissioning:**

As we go from this place into our daily lives, O God,  
**Help us to focus our thoughts and our energy in  
positive ways.**

As we deal with our everyday joys and struggles,  
**Help us to make good and wise choices, life-giving  
choices.**

As we go forth into the world and into this day,  
**Help us to seek ways of understanding ourselves  
and others. Amen**

**Extinguishing the Candles**

**\* Congregational Hymn of Benediction:**

“Go Now In Peace” *(Besig)*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will be with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

**Postlude**