



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Christmas Epiphany Sunday

Music as We Gather

Gathering

***Congregational Introit:** “Joy to the World” VU #59 vs. 1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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

Praise God who protects!

God is the source of peace. God nourishes us with abundance.

Praise the God who strengthens!

The Holy One is still speaking, whose word reaches our hearts.

Praise the God who loves!

Our Creator makes all things new and prepares our days.

Let us worship now our protecting, strengthening, and loving God.

*** Hymn:** “Once in Royal David's City” VU #62

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

*** Hymn:** “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” VU #43

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

Living Christmas Story

Rev. Krista Anderson

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Jeremiah 31:7-14 *I will turn mourning into joy*
John 1:1-18 *The Word became flesh*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: In the Bleak MidWinter

Offered by Thea Burton and Nancy Handrigan

Message: “Can we go Home?” Rev. Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:** “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire” VU #372

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory Hymn:**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” VU #541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

God of splendour and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in all times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us in all things. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church, offering the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn: “For the Beauty of the Earth” VU #226 (tune #81)**

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies,

***God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.***

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, **R**

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, **R**

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **R**

*** Commissioning / Extinguishing the Candles**

*** 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!**

*** Sung Benediction:** “Threefold Amen”

VU #967

Postlude

This week's Worship Bulletin is sponsored by

Wayne MacDonald

in loving memory of Shirley MacDonald