



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 11th, 2026, 10:00 am

Baptism of the Lord

(* = *Please rise in body or spirit*)(MV = *More Voices*)

(VU = *Voices United*)(TS = *Then Let Us Sing*)

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*Congregational Introit: "I am the Light" VU #87 vs. 1

REFRAIN:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way
home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R

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

Welcome to today's worship!

It is good to be here.

Why do we come today?

We come seeking God's blessings and love.

We come seeking to forgive and be forgiven

We come seeking healing and wholeness

These will be given to us.

Open our hearts to receive God's Good News.

We open our hearts to God in worship.

***Hymn:** “Arise, Your Light is Come” VU #79

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

***Hymn:** “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

Hide it under a bushel (No!) I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

Let it shine in my hometown, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces
shine (3x)
Let it shine (3x)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Isaiah 42:1-9 *God's servant brings justice*
Matthew 3:13-17 *Jesus is baptized*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: **The Light Still Shines**

Offered by the Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: **"Baptism – What's the Point?"**

Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte

Every Child Matters

Powerful Christ,

**We are grateful that you came to us as a child,
who grew out of a community that nurtured,
supported, and taught you the way
of your ancestors.**

You have asked us to do the same:

**to treat every child as we would treat you,
to love every person as you have loved us.**

**We are grateful that your power
is rooted in love, not force;**

**Your strength is displayed through
community, not might.**

**You have taught us to work toward
a better world**

**where all of creation thrives,
and Every Child Matters.**

*** Hymn:** “O Love, How Deep” VU #348

O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

God sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
and freely to this lost world came.

For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

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:**

By your grace, Baptizing God, we open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to many. By your blessing, all are invited to the waters of life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn: “Will You Come and Follow Me” VU #567**

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

*** 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