



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 10:00 am

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Centring Music

Call to Worship

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

So God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;

trusting that God's peace and love are present in this place.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

In honour and praise, let us worship.

***Hymn:** "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" VU #356

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

Opening Prayer

Holy Communion

A Call to give Thanks

In the sound of joy in children's laughter, in the stories of hope from our ancestors, and in the love of those who nurture us,

we give you thanks for your presence.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks because God is always with us.

God, you gave us people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

You showed Noah a rainbow;

you gave Moses strength to free your people
and taught Miriam to sing;

you gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth;

you gave David a harp to sing your praise.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

You sent Jesus to the world to show how much you love us
and to always bring us back to you.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus came as one of us, first an infant, then a child,

a youth, finally an adult.
He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,
and wept with those who wept.
To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.
To the sick, he gave healing.
To the hurting, he was a friend.
Still, people turned away from you.
Therefore with all the saints of every time and place,
we join the angels in their praise:

Song of Creation

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

* **Hymn:** "Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face"

VU #459 vs.1-3,5

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.

2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table for me spread;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

5 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Remembering Jesus at Table

We gather at this table to remember that
on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends,
he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving
thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

**“Drink. This cup, poured out for you,
is the promise of God.**

Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

We drink this to remember Jesus.

We remember Jesus' sacrifice and celebrate his
resurrection;

we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth;
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Affirmation of Memory and Hope

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Transformation / Blessings of the Elements

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

Sharing of Holy Communion

Concluding Praise

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

***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 58:1-9a *The fast that God chooses*
Matthew 5:13-18 (19-20) *You are salt; you are light*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: **Let Your Light Shine** *by M. MacDonald*
Offered by the Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: **Salty Christians** *Rev. Don Sellsted*

* Hymn: "Called By Earth and Sky"

MV #135

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

(After last verse, repeat twice more;

called by earth and sky.)

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

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:**

In glad thanksgiving for your goodness and the blessings in this life, we pray your blessing on us and these gifts that all may be used for the building up of the world you wish for us to create. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Work of the Congregation

*** Hymn:** “Let All Things Now Living” VU #242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

*** 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