



**ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 10:00 am

### **Easter Sunday**

#### **Music as We Gather**

#### **Gathering**

\* **Introit:** "Fanfare" *by L. Gillis*

#### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

At the first light of dawn, the women went to the tomb.

**Are not our hearts burning within us?**

And there they found...nothing?

**Are not our hearts lighted with fire?!**

An empty tomb! The grave-clothes lying on the ground!

Where is Jesus?! *(light the candle)*

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

#### **Hallelujah Flash**

#### **Recognition of the Land**

#### **Welcome**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

#### **Call to Worship:**

We come to this place, seeking Jesus in the familiar story  
of our faith.

**The Living Christ meets us not only here, but  
surprises us with in all the places of our lives!**

We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart, a  
story of loving triumph and overwhelming grace.

**This story of “Hallelujah!” means great joy for the  
One who lives and the ones who witness to this  
new life in all the places of our lives!**

We rejoice and give thanks for the life of God’s son,  
resurrected to us by the loving, vibrant Spirit.

**Let the Spirit fill all the places of our lives,  
that we may know the truth of how love remains  
resurrected in all our lives!**

We join our hearts in song and sing “Hallelujah, Gracious  
Jesus!” for Christ is living and so are we!

**Hallelujah, Gracious Jesus! Hallelujah indeed!**

As our voices and hallelujah’s ring out, let us sing with  
gladness into our worship now.

\* **Hymn:** “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

VU #155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!  
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

### **Opening Prayer**

With great joy we welcome you, Jesus!

**The journey has been long and we have longed to  
enter the Holy City.**

You come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently,  
encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys  
of hope and healing.

**Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we  
sing praise to you. Hosanna!**

Hosanna!

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's Name.  
Hallelujah and Amen!**

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Welcome**

The Day of Celebration is here!

**Hallelujah!**

We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

## Thanksgiving

For Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed!**

And so we give thanks!

**We give thanks and praise to the One who brings life!**

Gracious God, we raise shouts of Hallelujah,

**we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb,**  
giving thanks for the gifts of life that break the bonds of death.

**We sing songs of praise for the beauty of the earth,  
the glory of the skies, and the majesty of the waters.**

As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green  
breaks through the dead of winter,

**we sing songs of hope for new life springing forth  
and for the promise held in every seed.**

As people of faith, we remember all those who have gone  
before, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your  
life and Your hope.

**We trust that in remembering and retelling their  
stories, we too can move into life anew**

\* **Hymn:**

“I Come with Joy”

VU #477

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

### **Remembering**

We gather at this table remembering a story told mere  
days ago...

**and yet also ages ago...**

that Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper  
Room...

**and he called them to remember their promised freedom.**

We remember that at that table he took bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:

**This is my body, broken for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.**

Then he took the cup, blessed it and passed it among them saying:

**This is the cup of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me.**

And so, we break the bread, pour the cup, and remember with hope.

**On this Easter Day we share in God's Banquet to celebrate Life Victorious!**

## **Transformation**

### **Breaking and Pouring**

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life.

On this Day of Celebration we pour the Cup of Promise.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God**

Come, for all is now ready.

### **Prayer after Communion**

For what we have eaten,  
for what we have sipped,  
for what we have received—  
bread, wine, and life—

**thank you, God!**

May this moment fill us. May we be changed by it. And through us, may the world also be changed.

**Hallelujah and Amen.**

## **Listening**

**Children's Time / Time for all Ages**

**The Lord's Prayer**

\* **Hymn:** "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!" MV #121

***Refrain***

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
Hey now! The morning has come!  
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

Jesus loved people and he made them friends,  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He called to the children and the women and men.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He turned all the tables on everything.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus had power and they took him away.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

Jesus loves people and he lives again!  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. **R**

### **Prayer of Confession**

O God, help us!

**Help us!**

From a young woman's birth to a resurrection,

**From walking on water to "Lazarus, come out!"**

You embrace our scientific minds and our non-rational thought.

**You call us to believe the unbelievable.**

Make us into your Easter people...

**that we might see your presence in all the life that surrounds us.**

For this we believe:

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Alleluia.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

### **Affirmation**

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name, not to judge us, but to forgive and save us.





## Prayers of the People

\* Hymn: "Joy Comes with the Dawn"

VU #166

**Refrain:**

**Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.**

Weeping may come;  
weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**

Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter make us strong. **R**

We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

### \* **Commissioning and Benediction**

Go now, with wonder at the empty tomb to amaze you,  
**with the joy Mary felt in the garden lifting your  
hearts,**

and with the disciples' hope at the news Jesus had risen to  
encourage you.

**May God's resurrecting love open our future,**  
empowered by the Spirit and embraced by Jesus Christ,  
our Risen Lord.

**Hallelujah, and Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Benediction: Alleluia, Amen** *by W. Mozart*

**Postlude**

*This bulletin is sponsored by Brenda Parker and dedicated in  
loving memory to her parents,  
~ Glen and Lillian Butler ~  
"You are missed".*