



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter - Earth Day

Music as We Gather

Gathering

***Congregational Introit:** "We Are One" VU #402 vs.1

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
In the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
And we come needful of God's grace as we meet,
together in this place

Lighting the Christ Candle

Water Blessing

Recognition of the Land

Welcome

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

Centring Music

Call to Worship

Come all who seek the way of love,
**To praise and worship the God of extravagant
welcome.**

Come all who seek vitality...

To praise and worship the God of abundant life.
Come all who seek connection...

**To praise and worship the God of the beloved
community.**

Come all who seek beauty...

To praise and worship the God of all creation.
Come all who seek God as we worship today.

***Hymn:** “For the Beauty of the Earth” VU #226

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**

Opening Prayer

by Alydia Smith

As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation:

for light and darkness;

for air, wind, and sky;

for earth and sea;

for seeds, harvests, and plant life;

for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;

for every creature, swarming, flying, creeping, grazing;

and for our lives.

In our actions, meditations, and prayers,

may we honour and celebrate your very good

Creation,

as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love
in good and healing ways.

Amen.

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn:** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV #30

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea.

Refrain:

***And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.***

It's a call of life to the Giver,
when waves and waterfalls roar,
it's a call of life to the Giver,
when high tides break on the shore. **R**

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum-a-long.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song. **R**

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things,
it's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings. **R**

Mission and Service – Eastern Star

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

1 Peter 1:17–23*Souls purified through obedience*
Luke 24:13–35*Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

by C. Courtney

Offered by the Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

The Road to Paradise

by Rev. Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" VU #371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear. **R**

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share. **R**

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory Hymn:** "What Can I Do?" MV #191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**With our time, with our talents, with our treasures
and with our trust, we respond to the cries of
Creation. Bless our actions in this offering, and may
they bear fruit beyond our imagining, for the sake of
your Creation. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

A New Creed

Work of the Congregation

*** Hymn:** **“We Have This Ministry”** **VU #510**

We have this ministry
and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power
that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word,
speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world
may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

O Christ, the tree of life,
our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower
when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,
called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts,

the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

The yoke of Christ is ours,
the whole world is our parish;
we daily take the cross,
the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve,
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,
we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

*** Commissioning / Extinguishing the Candles**

May we have the wisdom to discern,
The courage to act,
And the compassion to serve.
May our faithful loving actions
protect God's reaction,
reflect Christ's justice, and
share the Spirit's hope to present and future generations.
And May the abundant Grace of God
The extravagant love of Christ
And the transformational power of the Holy Spirit be
with us all as we act each day for Creation.

*** 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:**

“Amen”

VU #973

Postlude