



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Recognition of the Land

Welcome

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

Centring Music

Call to Worship

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with
thanksgiving and praise!

**The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our
needs, and leads us on the right path.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage
and conviction - not fear and timidity.

**Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion,
threats and concerns...**

The Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love
and compassion, hope and peace.

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our
days of my life.**

On this day, let us dwell in God's presence!

***Hymn:**

“This is the Day”

VU #412

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Opening Prayer

God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we gather as a
community in your presence and in your protection.

Shield us from apathy and isolation.

Fortify us against resignation and despair.

**Move us toward justice and righteousness in your
name.**

As we gather to worship you today, may we be
transformed by love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in
faith for your glory and your kin-dom come.

Amen.

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn:** "River Running in You and Me" MV #163

River running in you and me,
Spirit of life, deep mystery,
Dancing down to the holy sea,
River run deep, River run free.

River laughed on my birthing day,
Wind and water joined in play
Soaked my soul in a shining spray,
River run deep, River run free.

River, cry my name to me,
Lend me hope and memory,
Sing me the story of the holy sea,
River run deep, River run free.

I stand on the edge, lookin' down,
Too scared to swim, afraid I'll drown –
Give me the courage to journey on
River run deep, river run free.

Journey on far from my home,
River – break this heart of stone;
Teach me to love, make me your own,
River run deep, River run free.

Hold me close on the day I die,
Bear me up when my soul is tired,
Carry me home on the rising tide,
River run deep, River run free.

River singin' in you and me,
Spirit of life – deep mystery
Catch us up in your melody
River run deep, River run free.

Mission and Service

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Psalm 23 (VU #749 refrain 1) *God is my shepherd*

John 10:1–10.....*Jesus the good shepherd and the gate*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: **The Shepherd Psalm** *by J. Carter*
Offered by the Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message: **Your Pet Knows** *by Rev. Don Sellsted*

* **Hymn:** “I Have Called You by Your Name” MV #161

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are
true. You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can
claim, offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of
doubt, hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded
children
whole; go and tell my precious people they are mine.

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:**

**Generous God, may these gifts bless our life
together, fortify our ministry, and transform our
community. Receive them as we give them—with
gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Work of the Congregation

* **Hymn:** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU #424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. **R**

* **Commissioning / Extinguishing the Candles**

Beloved, as you go,
The Gate is open and with you.
In your coming and going,
The Shepherd leads you.
Go, have life and have it abundantly.

*** 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