



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10:00 am

Seventh 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

We look to heaven...
and remember the One who has gone before us.
We gather as community...
and remember the One who has called us to unity.
We seek transformation...

and remember the words of Jesus that change lives.

In memory and unity, let the Spirit of God reach us in our worship today.

***Hymn:** “The Spring Has Come” VU #187

The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

The sun is warm, let all God’s children play in it!
The world expands, let’s spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God’s children play in it!

The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit’s fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

Opening Prayer

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

VU #664

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Mission and Service

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

John 17:1–26.....*Jesus prays that his disciples “all may be one”*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: “My Lighthouse”

Offered by Addie and Dave Murphy

Reflection: *offered by the Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte*

*** Hymn:** “Let Us Build a House” MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to
forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are
strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign
anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of
God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

Let us build a house where love is found in
water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice
meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time
and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the
wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the
Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's
face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and
visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words
within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and
songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

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:**

Eternal God, we offer you these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, using our gifts for the work Christ has assigned for us to do in the world you love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Work of the Congregation

*** Hymn:** “Like a Mighty River Flowing” VU #267

Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the summer breezes playing,
like the tall trees softly swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond our human telling
is the perfect peace of God

*** 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:**

“Amen”

VU #973

Postlude