



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 10:00 am

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*Congregational Introit:

“Come and Follow Me” *from Seasons of the Spirit*

If anyone would come and follow me, my disciple you would be.

Leave the past behind, seek and you will find all you're called to be.

If anyone would come and follow me, know the truth will make you free

Give and you receive, trust me and believe. Come and follow me.

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

Leader: We come here today to bear witness your word,
told to us through ancient stories

People: As we hear, help us to listen

Leader: As we hear, help us to learn

People: As we hear, help us to understand

Leader: With you, we are blessed

People: With you, all things will be made known

***Hymn:** In the Bulb There is a Flower VU #703

In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and patient God,
You have always spoken in ways that invite us to wonder.
Through stories, images, questions, and parables, you call
us beyond easy answers into deeper faith.
As we gather today, open our ears and our hearts. Give us
humility to admit that we do not always understand your
Word at first hearing. Give us courage to wrestle with it,
wisdom to listen for your Spirit, and openness to be
changed by what we discover.
May the parable we hear today plant within us living
seeds, growing into compassion, justice, hope, and love for
our neighbours.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen

Listening

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn:** "Three Things I Promise"

MV #176 vs. 1,3,4,6

Three things I promise, Holy God,

in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid out culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.

Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.

Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *The Parable of the Sower and the Soil.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: *offered by Thea Burton and Thomas Burton*

Message: **In Defense of "Bad Soil"**

by Jennifer Gillis-White

* **Hymn:** "When Seed Falls on Good Soil"

VU #503

When seed falls on good soil,
it's born through quiet toil;
where soil receives, the earth conceives
the blade, the stem, the fruit, the leaves.
Good soil, O mother earth,
the womb, where seed takes birth.

God's Word in Christ is seed;
good soil its urgent need;
for it must find in humankind
the fertile soil in heart and mind.
Good soil! A human field!
A hundredfold to yield.

Plough up the trodden way,
and clear the stone away;
tear out the weed, and sow the seed.
Prepare our hearts your Word to heed,
that we good soil may be.
Begin, O God, with me!

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

* **Offertory Hymn:** "We Praise You, O God" VU #218 vs.1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in mutual measure so that all needs are met. Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Work of the Congregation

*** Hymn:** “For the Fruit of All Creation” VU #227

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,

for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*** Commissioning / Extinguishing the Candles**

*** Benediction**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with those you love, and those of you who you find difficult to love, now and forever -
... AMEN!

*** Sung Benediction:**

“Amen”

VU #967

Postlude