



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 10:00 am

Rev. Don Sellsted's Farewell Service

Music as We Gather

Gathering

***Congregational Introit:** "And on This Path"

MV #8

And on this path,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

So enter in,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle, recognizing that Christ is in our midst.

May our prayers rise to you like the flame of this candle.

May our hopes dance into your presence...
like the smoke from this flame.

Recognition of the Land

Welcome

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

Centring Music *offered by Nancy Handrigan and Carmen Peng*

Call to Worship

Blessed be God.

And blessed be God's name.

God makes everything beautiful in its time.

Whatever God does endures forever.

Blessed be God, all you people;

And all who do God's will.

For everything there is a season; a time to go, and a time to come. Yet the Spirit blows where it will.

And for those who are led by the Spirit, they must follow.

***Hymn:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" VU #567

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Opening Prayer

Service of Baptism

Owen Terrance Leonard-Ford

son of Polly Leonard and Ian Ford

The Celebration of Baptism

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidate

Profession of Faith and Promises

Commitment of Parents: Polly Leonard and Ian Ford,
Do you believe in God, Source of love;
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice,

and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your siblings in Christ's community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

In baptism, *Owen* marks an important step in his journey of faith. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the mission and witness of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment (*rise in body or spirit*)

We have heard the will of Owen's parents and sponsor. We receive *Owen Terrance Leonard-Ford* in Christ's name, as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ. Will you support Owen with constant love, wholesome example, Christian teaching, and faithful prayer?

We will, God being our helper.

Affirmation of Faith "A New Creed"

We are not alone'

we live in God's world.

We believe in God;

who has created and is creating,

**who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church;
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism

Baptism

Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Laying on of Hands

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle & Certificate

Owen Terrance Leonard-Ford, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. In the name of the Christ, we welcome you.

Blessing

The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

Holy Communion – *music offered by Nancy and Carmen*

A Call to give Thanks

God of Blessing, we give thanks for your presence in the sound of joy in children's laughter, in the stories of hope from our ancestors, and in the love of those who nurture us. Amen.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks because God is always with us.

God, you gave us people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

You showed Noah a rainbow;

you gave Moses strength to free your people
and taught Miriam to sing;

you gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth;

you gave David a harp to sing your praise.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

You sent Jesus to the world to show how much you love us
and to always bring us back to you.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus came as one of us, first an infant, then a child,

a youth, finally an adult.
He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,
and wept with those who wept.
It is through Jesus' teaching to us that we do as he did.
To the despairing, we speak words of hope.
To the sick, we give healing.
To the hurting, we befriend.
We do as you have taught us.
Therefore with all the saints of every time and place,
we join the angels in their praise:

Song of Creation

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*** Hymn:** "All Who Hunger" VU #460

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Remembering Jesus at Table

We gather at this table to remember that
on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends,
he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving
thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

**“Drink. This cup, poured out for you,
is the promise of God.**

Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

We drink this to remember Jesus.
We remember Jesus' sacrifice and celebrate his
resurrection;
we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth;
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Affirmation of Memory and Hope

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Transformation

Breaking, Pouring, Sharing

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life.
On this Day of Celebration where we complete our
Covenant together, 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.

Music provided by Nancy Handrigan and Carmen Peng

Concluding Praise

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Philippians 4:1–10, 23 *Rejoice in the Lord always*

Matthew 11:28–30 *Come to me, all who are weary*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message:

Solidarity

by Rev. Don Sellsted

Special Music:

Lean on Me

by Bill Withers

Offered by Nancy Handrigan, Wayne McDonald, Dave Murphy

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:**

Gracious God, receive our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for your goodness to us. Bless them so that they become seeds of generosity, bringing needed gifts to others in Jesus' name.

Special Music:

Fields of Gold

by Gordon Matthew Sumner

Offered by Ari Snyder

Prayers of the People

Completion of Covenant

Statement of Purpose

Return of Ministerial Symbols

When I came among you, to serve with you in the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care...you gifted me with some symbols that I now return to you:

A Bible

Thank you for sharing the words of our faith. May we be forever changed by the wisdom found within it.

The Bible is a symbol of the ministry of the Word among us. May God's Word continue to challenge, nurture, and inspire us.

We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life. The Word of God lives among us. Thanks be to God.

Water

Thank you for sharing the joy of welcoming our faithful into the family of Christ.

The font is the symbol of our baptism, the place of our birth into the body of Christ. May you continue to welcome new members through the living waters of our faith.

We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism: the font of blessing welcomes all. Thanks be to God.

Bread and Cup

You have provided us the opportunity to experience and remember that Jesus is with us always.

The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ, the source of nourishment and strength. May you continue to remember the Christ who lives and breathes in each one of us.

We will continue to break the bread and share the cup. The table invites us to taste and see that God is good. Thanks be to God.

Prayer Shawl

Together we have shown our care for others, the cornerstone of our faith in practice.

The Prayer Shawl is the symbol of care, prayer and comfort for times of tender care in the lives of those we love, family, friend and stranger. May you continue to touch the lives of those who need your tender care.

It is at the core of who we are and who we will continue to be, caring for others beyond ourselves. Thanks be to God.

A Clock

Over the past 8 years together, we have grown in spirit and love for one another.

There have been times of joy and times of heartache. And in our time, we have accomplished much. Continue to spend time enjoying all that life has to offer: rest, work, play, serve, learn, teach, give, receive and create harmony, the balance of life.

We will do the business of our community, we will care for one another and offer each other the opportunity for rest and change, the balance of life. Thanks be to God.

Towel and Basin

In living and acting in faith, we have reached out beyond ourselves to love friend and stranger alike.

The towel and basin are symbols of our calling to justice and service, following the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of his friends. May you continue in the way of Christ.

We will continue to serve others and to work for justice, following in the way of Jesus, Friend and Servant of all. Thanks be to God.

Mug, Cup & Saucer

We are grateful for our time together to create bonds of honest love and care within this faith community.

There is genuine love amongst each of you here today. In your caring for one another, you keep the fire and passion alive and well in this community of faith. May you continue to nurture the body, mind, and soul for all who call Orchard Valley 'home'.

**We will continue to nurture the faith and vitality amongst the people of our faith community.
Thanks be to God.**

Children and Youth / Time for all Ages

I have watched you all, our youth and children, grow in numbers and in faith. It was a profound honour to be able to baptise so many youth and children, bless them into the whole family of Jesus Christ. The youth that worked their way through confirmation are the future of our church. Bless each of you for every moment we laughed and prayed

and played and learned together. You will be forever in my heart.

We will continue to encourage the participation of youth and children. To listen to them and to grow with them to help them be our future with Christ.

Keys

Our faith, our church, is not a building. It is the heart of Christ dwelling within it through each of us. Thank you for respecting this space as our place to live out our faith.

I return these keys, the symbol of my leadership among you, and I will pray for your discernment going forward.

We will care for our building and the heritage it represents as we discern our way forward.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn:** “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire” VU #372

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Litany of Thanksgiving

We are all called by God to offer our unique gifts and work.

But some are called to lead in particular ways.

We are all called by God to speak our faith.

But some are called to preach to the community with prophetic words of compassion and justice.

We are all called by God to comfort those who suffer.

But some are called to share in the pain of the entire flock.

We give thanks for Rev. Don who has been a shepherd in our midst.

One who has led us, taught us, challenged us, and shared both our trials and our joys.

I give thanks for the prayers that surround me as I complete my ministry among you. Only God is perfect, and although I may have fallen short at times, I have done my best and given my all.

We rejoice in the ways we have been blessed by your ministry among us...

just as I have been richly blessed by your ministry to this church and to Cheryl and me.

(Lighting a candle from the Christ candle - Sheila).

We invite you to accept this candle to remember us.

Remember that God's light always burns within you.

Go now, surrounded by our love and led by God, Christ, and Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Forth

***Hymn:** “Wherever You May Go”

MV #216

Refrain:

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
And your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
For I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
We will travel side by side
And God’s love will be our guide. **R**

From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
When you need me, I’ll be there,
You can trust my faithful care. **R**

Commissioning and Benediction

Rev. Don

Go now, to follow the way of Christ.

*As you have been a blessing to me, go out to be a blessing
for others.*

**As you have been a blessing to us,
so also may you be a blessing to others.**

*May God, the Source of Love,
bless you in your ministry in this place.*

**May God, the Creator, bless you in your vocational
ministry.**

May Jesus, Love Incarnate, ever be with you and guide you.

May God, the Son, continue to guide you in all your journeys.

*May the Spirit, love's presence and comfort,
fill you with every good thing.*

May God, the Spirit, be with you always!

Go now, to love and to serve.

Hallelujah!

And the people said!

Amen!

***Sung Benediction:** "Go, Make a Difference" MV #209

Refrain:

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

(2 more times)

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

Postlude