



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 16th, 2026, 10:00 am

12th 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 of the Christ Candle

Recognition of the Land

We live, work, play and pray in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

We have respect for all people of this land as we live out the United Church apology and move forward towards being the community that the Creator calls us to be together.

We give thanks for this land and recognize that we are all treaty people.

Welcome

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Centring Music

Call to Worship:

This is the day our Creator has made for us.

And we rejoice and are happy to be here!

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn:** "Called by Earth and Sky" MV #135

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

*(After last verse, repeat twice
more; called by earth and sky.)*

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.

Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Listening

Praying for Our Children

The Lord's Prayer – "Our Creator...."

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Matthew 18:1-9; 21-22

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music:

Fields of Gold & I Will Remember You - Medley

offered by Ari Snyder

Message: The 40th Anniversary of the Apology

Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte

The Apology

Long before my people journeyed to this land your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured.

We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality.

We confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were.

As a result, you, and we, are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred, and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

*** Hymn:**

“I Am the Dream”

MV #106

I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in ev’ry silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.

You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

Lighting our Vision & Mission Candle

*** Offertory Hymn: “Grateful” (chorus only – x2) MV #182**

Refrain

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,
O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,**

**joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

*** Offertory Prayer**

Prayers of the People

Mission and Service

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.
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.
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.

*** Extinguishing the Candles**

*** Benediction: AMEN!**

*** Sung Benediction:** “Amen” VU #967

Postlude