



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026, 10:00 am

13th 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:

We invite the rivers to worship with us:

All: The Annapolis, the Cornwallis, the Gaspereau, the Habitant, the Canard and all the streams that flow to the sea.

We invite the country creeks to sing:

All: the trout, the gaspereau, the bass, the shad, and the pickerel

We invite the creatures of the air, the ponds and lakes to sing:

All: the herons, the ravens, the song birds, the dragonflies, the frogs, and the sleepy tortoises.

We join with the waters in praising God:

All: waterfalls singing upstream, waves dancing at the river mouth, and the high tides of the Fundy.

***Hymn:**

"River"

MV #3

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,
River from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do,
River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Spirit, come-a-down to the river-side,
Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit, I am free for you to guide,
Spirit, pray that I be taught!

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,
Water, strength and life you give.
Water, as I travel with each hour,
Water, help my body live.

River, flow-a-down where you ran before,
River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore,
River, see my journey through.
See my journey through.(2X)

Opening Prayer

Creating God, we celebrate your refreshing presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, the creeks and the wetlands of the Earth. May our spirits be lifted to rejoice with the vibrant world of the rivers. May it be so. Amen

Listening

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn:** "Like a Healing Stream" MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,

God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Ezekiel 47: 1-10

Luke 5: 1-11

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Sacred Music: *offered by Thea Koenig-Burton*

Message: **Going Deeper**

Rev. Gloria Churchill

*** 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, look-in' 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 you melody
River run deep, River run free.

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**

***Hymn:** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” VU #400

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Mission and Service

Work of the Congregation

*** Hymn:** “Psalm 42 – As the Deer Pants” VU #766

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart’s desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart’s desire,
and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy-giver

and the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything!
You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

*** Extinguishing the Candles**

*** Blessing**

***Closing Hymn:** "Amen" VU #967

Postlude