



**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
**Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Minister:** Rev. Daniel MacDonald  
**Minister of Music:** John Scott  
**Lay Reader:** Shelley Mann  
**Greeters:** Corella Courtney & Carolyn McAllister

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VU: Voices United (red book)

MV: More Voices (spiral-bound book)

*We welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Here, people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, prayer and music.*

**Prelude**

**Gathering Music:** “We Are One”

**VU #402**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship:**

Enter this sanctuary and know  
that here you will find care and comfort.

**For that is why we are here.**

Come into this community with a loving heart  
and a spirit ready to help build the kingdom of God.

**For that is why we are here.**

Celebrate the gifts of all those who gather here with you,  
and know that we celebrate your gifts too,  
no matter who you are.

**For that is why we are here.**

Come, beloved of God, let us worship,  
knowing that no matter what life brings,  
no matter what the future holds,  
no matter the past we still carry,  
we are never alone. God is with us.

**And that is why we are here.**



## **A Prayer for Renewal:**

**Risen One, revealed in communities of all shapes and sizes,  
all cultures and languages, all ages and abilities,  
help us to find our shape in you again this Easter season.  
Remind us of our common purpose as your Body in this world,  
moving through our every loving action,  
our every prayerful response, our every commitment to justice,  
our every desire for life in abundance, that we might flourish and  
thrive - a reflection of your life and love.**

**We know that the church has not always lived up to its vision  
and neither have we, but still we desire to live with intention,  
with love, with hope and to be a beacon of grace in this world,  
so, we start again together this week, trying our very best,  
praying with confidence that you might continue to be with us  
along the way. In the hope of resurrection, we journey on.**

## **A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer Words of Assurance**

### **Mission & Service Story**

**Choir Anthem:**                    *“Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me”*       ~K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;  
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;  
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;  
And, with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;  
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;  
And with wisdom to kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;  
And, with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;  
Show they mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;  
Separate from sin, I would, And cherish all things good,  
And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;  
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;  
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield by thou my strength and shield'  
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

**Scripture Reading:**

Acts 2:42-47

**Sermon**

**Hymn:**

*"We Would Be One"*



We would be one as now we join in sing-ing  
We would be one in build-ing for to - mor-row



our hymn of love, to pledge our - selves a - new  
a nobl - er world than we have known to - day.



to that high cause of great - er un - der-stand-ing  
We would be one in search-ing for that mean-ing



of who we are, and what in us is true.  
which bends our hearts and points us on our way.



We would be one in liv - ing for each oth - er  
As one, we pledge our - selves to great - er ser - vice,



to show to all a new com-mun - i - ty.  
with love and jus - tice, strive to make us free.

words: Samuel Anthony Wright  
tune: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius

**We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community**

## We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"From You I Receive"*

Joseph and Nathan Segel

From you I re-ceive, to you I give, to-  
geth-er we share, and from this we live.

### Dedication of Our Gifts:

**God of Abundance, we bring our offerings for the work of your church, here and throughout the world.**

**We bring also our desire to be your people in word and action.**

**Bless all that we bring and empower us in our shared work, that they and we might continue to be a blessing to one another and to others in our community and beyond.**

**May it be so. Amen.**

### Sung Invitation to Prayer: *"When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides"*

MV #169

#### Prayers of the People

##### The Lord's Prayer

Cre - a - tor in heav - en hal-lowed be thy name;  
(Our Fa - ther)  
thy king-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n.  
Give us this day our dail - y bread and for-give our sins  
as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.

(Cont'd)



And lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from ev - il.



For thine is the king - dom and thine is the pow - er



And the glo - ry for - ev - er, the glo - ry for - ev - er,



the glo - ry for ev - er. A - - men.

**Closing Hymn:** “There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind” (see over)

**Commissioning and Benediction:**

**Postlude**

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*Some of our prayers today have been adapted for our use  
from those first written by Beth Johnston, Laura Turnbull,  
and Éric Hébert-Daly and published in “Gathering: Lent-Easter, 2026.”  
Used with gratitude and permission.*

*“There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind”*

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of seven lines of music, each with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first two columns containing the main text and the third column containing a refrain or response. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end.

1 There's a wild hope in the wind: her  
2 There's a wild hope in the skies: her  
3 There's a wild hope in the earth: her

whis - per is heard on the breeze. The  
gown is the blue of for - ev - er. The  
bod - y pro - vides us with nur - ture. The

gale is her shout that is call - ing us out. There's a  
pur - ple of night is her heart's pure de - light. There's a  
dark un - der - ground is where life can a - bound. There's a

wild hope in the wind. O  
wild hope in the skies. O  
wild hope in the earth. O

God in the wind, come gath - er us in,  
God in the skies, come o - pen our eyes,\*  
God in the earth, come aid our re - birth,

be our cour-age and prom - ise. The fu - ture is dim, but we

want to live in - to a wild, wild hope.