CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia December 14th, 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Graham Pearson

Greeters: Carolyn & Oliver Levy

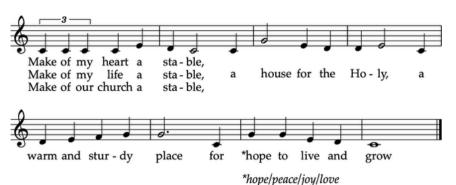
Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
VU: Voices United (red book)

Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca
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: "Make of My Heart a Stable"



We Light Our Advent Wreath James and Shelley Blinn

In a world of heartache and loneliness...

we give this moment over to love.

In a world of community and connection...

we make room in our lives for love.

Love to enfold us.

Love to embrace us.

Love to accompany us.

Love to unite us.

Awaiting the power of radical, unconditional love to transform the world as we know it... we light this candle for love.

May it burn brightly in our lives, our church and our world this Advent.

The Candle is Lit.

Let us pray:

God of encircling love, open us to love this Advent
Love nurtured in communities of compassion and hospitality
Love strengthened through relationship and solidarity
Love held in the safety of another's embrace.
O God of encircling love,
open us to love this Advent
that through our families, our communities,
and all our relationships,
we might reflect that love to the world.
Amen.

Refrain: "Make of My Heart a Stable" (see opposite page)

Words of Welcome

We Make Room in Our Lives for Love

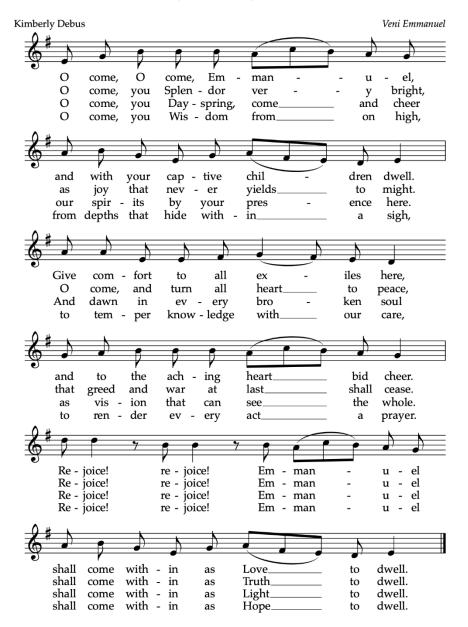
Exploring the Nurturing Love of Community

In communities of compassion, love grows strong. In communities of trust, love grows brave. In communities of welcome, love grows freely. In communities of warmth, love grows tender.

This Advent, may we take the time, and make the room to be in compassionate, trusting, nurturing, supportive, and genuine community with one another, creating the space for love to grow in our lives, and our world. Amen.

Hymn:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Scripture Reading:

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Choir Anthem: "Lo, How A Rose Er Blooming/The Rose"

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

gain.

gain.

gain.

Sermon

Hymn: ""My Soul Cries Out" (Canticle of the Turning) MV #120

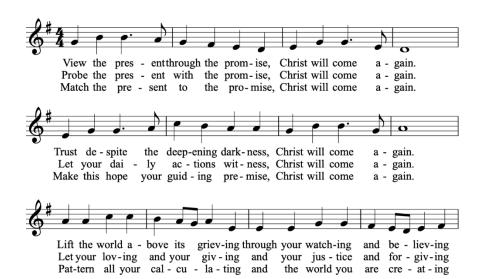
We Celebrate the Life and Work of Our Community

Gift of Music: Central Handbells

"In the Bleak Winter" – Gustav Holst, arr. by Cathy Moklebust "Hark, the Glad Sound" – attr. Thomas Haweis, arr. Cathy Moklebust

We Share Our Offerings Offertory Hymn:

View the Present Through the Promise



the hope past hope's con - ceiv-ing: Christ will come

liv - ing: Christ will come

wait-ing: Christ will come

all the

a sign to

the ad-vent vou are

Dedication of Our Gifts:
God of Elizabeth and Mary,
and love born in community,
Through the gifts we share,
and the relationships we nurture,
we participate in your dream of love for the world.
As we await the coming of the One who is Love Embodied,
We pray that these gifts we offer today,
might help to create communities of care and support,
compassion and trust, through which
your love can be born once again.
Amen.

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 3 & 4 VU #64

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: "Before The Marvel Of This Night" VU #40

Commissioning and Benediction Postlude

This land on which we live and work and worship
is the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
As a treaty people and a reconciling church, we commit to listen, learn and work together in ways of justice, peace and friendship with all who share this land and call it home.