

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

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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: “Make of My Heart a Stable”

Make of my heart a sta - ble,
Make of my life a sta - ble, a house for the Ho - ly, a
Make of our church a sta - ble,

warm and stur - dy place for *hope to live and grow
*hope/peace/joy/love

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

Kimberly Debus

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
O come, you Splen - dor ver - y bright,
O come, you Day - spring, come and cheer
O come, you Wis - dom from on high,

and with your cap - tive chil - dren dwell.
as joy that nev - er yields to night.
our spir - its by your pres - ence here.
from depths that hide with - in a sigh,

Give com - fort to all ex - iles here,
O come, and turn all heart to peace,
And dawn in ev - ery bro - ken soul
to tem - per know - ledge with our care,

and to the ach - ing heart bid cheer.
that greed and war at last shall cease.
as vis - ion that can see the whole.
to ren - der ev - ery act a prayer.

Re - joice! re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come with - in as Love to dwell.
shall come with - in as Truth to dwell.
shall come with - in as Light to dwell.
shall come with - in as Hope to dwell.

Scripture Reading:

Gospel:

Luke 1:39-56

Choir Anthem:

“Lo, How A Rose Er Blooming/The Rose”

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

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 Moglebust

“Hark, the Glad Sound” – attr. Thomas Haweis, arr. Cathy Moglebust

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn:

View the Present Through the Promise



View the pres - ent through the prom - ise, Christ will come a - gain.
Probe the pres - ent with the prom - ise, Christ will come a - gain.
Match the pre - sent to the pro - mise, Christ will come a - gain.



Trust de - spite the deep - ening dark - ness, Christ will come a - gain.
Let your dai - ly ac - tions wit - ness, Christ will come a - gain.
Make this hope your guid - ing pre - mise, Christ will come a - gain.



Lift the world a - bove its griev - ing through your watch - ing and be - liev - ing
Let your lov - ing and your giv - ing and your jus - tice and for - giv - ing
Pat - tern all your cal - cu - la - ting and the world you are cre - at - ing



in the hope past hope's con - ceiv - ing: Christ will come a - gain.
be a sign to all the liv - ing: Christ will come a - gain.
to the ad - vent you are wait - ing: Christ will come a - gain.

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.*

