

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
December 7th, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Joan Jobb

Greeters: Janet Robertson

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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.

We are delighted to welcome pianist Mary Castello to Central this morning, and are grateful for her generous gifts of 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 ~ Shelley & Colin Mann

In a world of conflict and trouble...

we give this moment over to peace.

In a world where small choices have great impact...

we choose to make room in our lives for peace.

Peace to calm us.

Peace to still us.

Peace to awaken us.

Peace to challenge us.

Encouraged by the small seeds of peace
already growing around us...

we light this candle for peace.

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

The Candle is Lit.

Let us pray:

God of perennial peace

Open us to peace this Advent.

Peace sprouting from the cracks and the crevices,

Peace blossoming through the words and actions of others.

Peace growing quietly, tenaciously, relentlessly

in hearts and lives and communities all around the world.

O God of perennial peace,

open us to peace this Advent,

**that it might root itself deep within the stumps of our lives,
and spread like ivy across the walls of our hearts.**

Amen.

Refrain: *“Make of My Heart a Stable”*

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a triplet of eighth notes on the first measure, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff: "Make of my heart a sta-ble, Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "warm and stur-dy place for *hope to live and grow". Below the second staff, the text "*hope/peace/joy/love" is written.

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

Words of Welcome

We Make Room in Our Lives for Peace

Exploring the Promised Peace of the Evergreen Bough.

Every tiny seed of peace that we plant in our world
holds within it the capacity to grow
into a mighty canopy of equity and love,
sheltering the vulnerable and the hurting
within its branches of justice.

**This Advent, may we take the time, and make the room,
to plant seeds of peace whenever and wherever we can,
in our lives, in our communities, in our world,
never underestimating their ability
to lead to flourishing and growth for all.
Amen.**

Hymn: *“There’s A Voice In The Wilderness”* **VU #18**

Scripture Readings:

First Testament: Isaiah 11:1-9

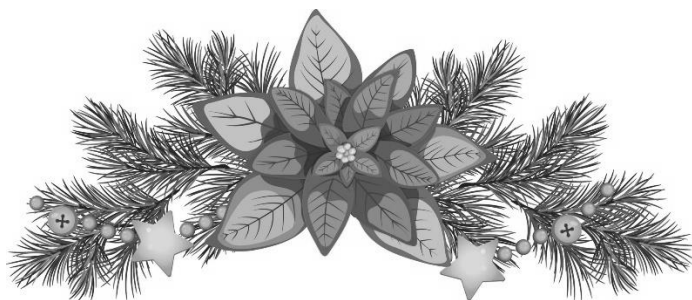
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

Hymn: *“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”* **VU #8**

We Celebrate the Life and Work of Our Community

Gift of Music: Mary Castello, piano



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.



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.



Lift the world a - bove its griev - ing through your watch - ing
Let your lov - ing and your giv - ing and your jus - tice



and be - liev - ing in the hope past hope's con - ceiv - ing:
and for - giv - ing be a sign to all the liv - ing:



Christ will come a - gain.
Christ will come a - gain.

Dedication of Our Gifts:

We never know, Loving Christ,

the impact our actions will have,

and yet, still we give, still we say yes

to the needs of the world,

trusting that you will bless us and all we offer

for your good purposes.

Bless, therefore, what we have to offer this week,

that it might seed new life and new saplings of peace

in our lives and our world.

With hope and anticipation, we ask it.

Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer:

The choir will lead this song. You are invited to join as you feel comfortable.

Star-Child

lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray
music: Carlton R. Young



Star Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God,
Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years,
Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,
love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know:
sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears:
wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store:
down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine:
This year, this year let the day ar - rive when
Christ-mas comes for er - ery-one, ev - ery-one a - live!

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: "People Look East"

VU #9

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.*

