

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

January 25th, 2026 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Thelma Blinn

Greeters: Tom Ritcey

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: “Sing Hey For The Carpenter”

The musical score consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, treble clef, and G major. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the staff lines. The lyrics are as follows:

Come with me, come wan- der, come wel-come the world
Come walk in my com- p'ny, come sleep by my side,
Come share in my laugh-ter, come close to my fears,
Come leave your pos - ses-sions, come share out your treas- ure.

Where stran-gers might smile or where stones may be hurled;
Come sa - vour a life - style with noth - ing to hide;
Come find your - self washed with the kiss of my tears;
Come give and re - ceive with - out meth - od or meas-ure;

Come leave what you cling to, lay down what you clutch
Come sit at my ta - ble and eat with my friends,
Come stand close at hand while I suf - fer and die
Come loose ev - 'ry bond that's re - sist - ing the Spir - it,

And find, with hands emp - ty, that hearts can hold much.
Dis - cov -'ing that love which the world nev - er end.
And find in three days how I nev - er will lie.
En - a - bling the earth to be yours to in - her - it.

(cont'd)

Refrain



Sing Hey for the car-pen-ter leav-ing his tools! Sing Hey for the Phar-i-sees
leav-ing their rules! Sing Hey for the fish - er - folk leav-ing their
nets! Sing Hey for the peo - ple who leave their re - grets!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer:

For the richness of your creation,
different colours and scents, different animals and birds,
none the same, yet part of one creation,
O God, we praise you.

For the richness of your world,
different places and peoples, different cultures and stories,
no person the same, yet part of one human family,
O God, we praise you.

For the richness of our churches,
different gifts and skills, different songs and prayers,
no congregation the same, yet part of one Body,
O God, we praise you.

In our aching, divided, hurting world,
may we celebrate the rich diversity that surrounds us, O God.
May our prayers for unity, our songs of praise,
our desire for hope, rise above all that separates us,
A gentle, and healing breeze that heralds a new tomorrow.
May it be so. Amen.

*Written by Simon Taylor,
Iona Community, Scotland*

Hymn: *“Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness”*

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a...
Praise the One who blessed the children with a...
Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who
lib - er - at - ing light. Praise the One who frees the
strong yet gen - tle word. Praise the One who drove out
sif - fered in our place. Je - sus died and rose for
pris - oner, turn-ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the
de - mons with a pierc - ing two-edged sword. Praise the
man - y that we may know SGod by grace. Let us
One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - ery dread dis -
One how brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing
sing for joy and glad - ness, see-ing what our God has
ease, calm - ing storms and feed - ing
sand. From this well comes liv - ing
done. Praise the one re - deem - ing
thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - ery land.
glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Prayer for Renewal:

**God of those we agree with and those we don't,
God in our prayers for Christian unity,
keep us from dividing the world into us and them,
for and against, good and bad.**

Remind us that humans and human systems are always more complex than the binary choices of on/off or up/down.

Just as you have met us in the reality

Just as you have lived as in the family
of a living, breathing, complicated human being,
may we meet you again in each other,
celebrating our rich and complex diversity

as a gift to be nurtured and a source of endless inspiration, as we work together to build a better world in your name.

Amen.

*Written by Alex Wimberly,
Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland*

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

Words of Assurance

Hymn: *"I Come To You"* (see insert)

We Share a Mission and Service Story

Anne Tipler

Scripture Readings:

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-22

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sermon

Hymn: “Soil Of God”

MV #174

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:

Brother Jesus,

you call your church to be a movement of unity and courage,
a community formed for service, equity
and justice for all people throughout the world.

As we pray this week for the global church
and its continued commitment to the flourishing of all,
we recommit ourselves to that vision of unity,
through the offering of our gifts:
our time, our talents, our lives.

Use us, and all that we have, to overcome our world's divisions,
and foster unity and partnership between
peoples, nations and all of creation.

With hope and conviction, we pray. Amen.

Hymn:

"Oh Let Us Breathe"

Lori Erhardt

Oh let us breathe,____ breathe and be to-gether,____
— breathe and be to-gether,____ to-gether now.
Oh let us breathe,____ breathe and be to-gether,____
— breathe and be to-gether,____ as if we knew how.

2. Oh let us live... live in love together.

3. Oh let us pray...pray for peace together.

4. Oh let us arise... arise and shine together.

An Affirmation of Faith from the Global Church

We believe in God, who is love

and who has given the earth to all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word Made Flesh,

who has come to free us from all forms of oppression.

We believe in the Spirit of God,

who works in and through all who are turned towards truth.

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church,

which is called to exist for the service of all people,

to strive for justice and peace and to live with respect in Creation,

We do not believe in the right of the strongest,

nor the force of arms, nor the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people,
and the power of non-violence.

We do not believe in racism,

nor the power that comes from wealth and privilege,

nor in any established order that enslaves.

We believe that all people are equally human,
that order based on violence and injustice is not order.

We do not believe that war and hunger are inevitable

and peace unattainable.

We believe in beauty and simplicity,
in love with open hands, in peace on earth,
and the power of Christian witness and unity
to inspire life-giving, lasting change.

We do not believe that suffering needs to be in vain,

that death is the end,

or that the disfigurement of the world is what God intended.

We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything,
in God's power to transform and transfigure,
and in a future good beyond imagining.

We believe that – in the Spirit, in Christ and in the love of God –
we are one!

May our lives, and our church, reflect our belief!

*A blended global creed, drawing inspiration from churches in
Canada, Australia, South Africa, Kenya & Indonesia*

Closing Hymn: *“We Are One In The Spirit”*



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

End



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu-man dig - ni - ty and save hu-man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A Responsive Commissioning and Benediction:
God, give us the blessing of an open mind,
without imposed borders, without acquired prejudices.

Give us the grace of deep breath,
**able to inhale all the pains and the hopes
of your suffering people**
and to exhale new life that is shared, generous and supportive.

Give us the impulse of an embrace
that unites memory with purpose, history with project,
enhancing the present with the flavour of full life.

Give us the certainty of a just earth,
with space and opportunity, food and dignity, work and rights
for every human being in their rich and valuable diversity.

God, give us this blessing, then send us out
to love and serve your people without discrimination
to be good servants and stewards of Christ
and to unite our hearts and minds and lives
in the work of hope to which you call us.
By the Spirit's power, may it be so. Amen.

*Written by members of
the World Council for Mission, Singapore*

Postlude

*All our prayers today, which have been drawn from the diversity of the
global church, are used with gratitude and permission.*

I Come To You

Congregation invited to sing verse 3

Words: Hannah Brown (2023)

Music: American Folk Song

arr. Tony Alonso (2024)



I come to you, the lost and scattered; I come to
I come to you, the dis-re-gard-ed; I come to
I come to you, the false and fail-ing; I come to



you, the snug and strong; I come to you, the souls un-
you, the scarred and shamed; I come to you, the bro-ken
you, the wild and worn; I come to you, the wronged and



gath-ered; now come to me, learn you be-long.
heart-ed; now come to me, and be re-claimed.
rail-ing; now come to me, and be-re-born.



Leave all you've done, I am for-giv-ing; leave all you've



known to come and see; leave all you've owned, you're just be-



gin-ning; leave all you've been and fol-low me.

BACK “WORDS” #13 CYC

By Brian Jobb

Indeed Rev. MacNaughton was a leader and strong advocate for this new CYC building. Unfortunately, he was called to First United, Truro and wasn't Central's minister at the opening and dedication in June 1974. But he was instrumental in having the CYC built.

In 1968, the Trustees purchased the Wolfe Property (was Burke/Macdonald Law Office; now Luczak & Associates) at the corner of King/Lincoln Streets for \$18,000. The size of the property was 83 feet more or less, on Lincoln Street and 59 feet more or less, on King Street. They sold the house in 1973 for \$14,500. The church kept the backyard (where a coach house stood) for construction of the CYC. Anthony Thibodeau was engaged to tear down the coach house for \$125 to make room for the new CYC. Allan Duffus had been engaged as architect.