



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
July 12th, 2026 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

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: “Welcome Into This Place”

Wel - come in - to this place. Wel - come in - to this
bro - ken ves - sel. You de - sire to a - bide in the
prais - es of Your peo - ple, so we lift our hands and we
lift our hearts, as we of - fer up this praise un - to Your name.

The musical score is written on four staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

In the morning, before the heat of the day,
we come to hear stories that warm and stir our hearts to life.

Like the flowers that send out their tunnelling roots,
seeking water, nutrients, and stability to grow.

**We come to hear stories that root us in faith,
nourishing our spirits for the work of compassion and hope.**

With the robins and the seagulls, the osprey and the sparrows,
each singing their joy at the gift of this day,

**We come to sing songs of joy and of praise,
that they might ground us in gratitude, awaken us to wonder,
and open us to the harmony of life all around us.**

While farmers tend their fields and nurture their crops,

**We come to worship,
that this time together might prepare the soil of our lives,
to be the birthplace of God's flourishing and love.**

Come, let us worship together!

Hymn: *"Come Down, O Love Divine"*

VU #367

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

**A Prayer of Opening and Release
Creator God,**

imaginer of the earth in all its rich diversity

**You invite us to come as we are,
to receive the gift of abundant life.**

Teacher Jesus, sharer of parables and promise,

**You invite us to come as we are,
to sit at your feet, to still our hearts and to listen.**

Enlivening Spirit, rule-breaker, source of inspiration and hope,

**You invite us to come as we are
to join in the feast and the dance of creation.**

**Today we come, just as we are, with all that we are,
knowing that sometimes it is hard to be still, or to listen,
sometimes we feel we don't deserve abundance,
sometimes our well of hope runs dry.**

**Forgive us our insecurities
and calm the voice of our inner critics.**

**so that we might be fully present here
with you and with one another.**

**Renew our spirits and release us from all that holds us back,
that we might be opened again to your life-giving ways. Amen.**

Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer
Words of Assurance

Hymn: *“Bring Many Names”* **VU #268**

Scripture Reading:
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9

Sermon

Hymn: *“Soil of God, You and I”* **MV #174**

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *“What Can I Do?”* **MV #191**

Dedication of Our Gifts:

**God of the harvest and God of the soil,
we bring our gifts to you today
that they might be planted in the places
where your creation needs healing,
and become the seeds of compassion and justice
for all who are in need.
Receive and bless these gifts, we ask.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Sung Invitation to Prayer

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying” **VU #400**



Prayers of the People

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.



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: "Bring Forth the Kingdom"



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Gone Fishing

When you go fishing on a Sunday morning, to the cottage for the weekend, to your winter home, or away on vacation or business, your congregation's life goes on. Even when you are away, you can fulfill your financial commitments to your congregation and the Mission and Service Fund through the United Church Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program.

With automatic monthly donations through PAR, you specify the amount and your gifts are electronically transferred to your congregation's bank account.

PAR is convenient for you, and convenient for your congregation. You can budget and regulate your offerings with no last minute catch-up periods, no hassle trying to find money on Sunday mornings, and no worry about missing some weekly gifts. And, your church receives reliable and regular income throughout the year. Perhaps most important, PAR makes giving to your congregation and the Mission and Service Fund a priority that reflects your spiritual commitment.

*What can I offer the Lord
for all [the Lord's] goodness to me?
In the assembly of all [the] people
I will give [the Lord] what I have
promised.*

Psalm 116:12, 14, *Good News Bible*

Scripture text from the Good News Bible © ABS 1995.



The **Mission and Service Fund** supports in part the PAR program and enables the receiving and sharing of all gifts for the work of the church. Please consider joining others in giving through PAR.



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

