



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
July 26th, 2026 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Alison MacDonald
Greeters: Tom Ritcey & Helen Bennett

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.

We extend a warm welcome and thanks to our guest musicians,
Dr. Andra Bohnet, flute, and Ciel Duke, hammered dulcimer.

Prelude

Gathering Music: *“Welcome Into This Place”* (see back page)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

This is a place where saints are formed
through word and song, through food and care

Come, let us rest here awhile.

This is a space where saints are grown
as faith is shared and love is shown
where all who doubt and who believe
are invited to give and to receive

Come, let us seek some common ground.

This is a time of fond surprise
for hearts and minds and ears and eyes;
where what's gone wrong can be forgiven
and what's to come is glimpsed or given

Come, let us grow together.

This is a place and a space and a time
for paths to cross and pilgrims to meet
for us to find a better view of all that's good and just and true
and for God's spirit to renew.

Come, let us worship together.

Hymn: *"Jesus, You Have Come To The Lakeshore"*

VU #563

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for this Summer Day:

**For the sun's rising, and its beams of precious warmth,
Thanks be to you, Holy One.**

For the morning's gleaming promise:

**plants awakening, flowers blooming,
trees dancing in a gentle wind,**

Thanks be to you, Holy One.

**For the air, warm and wet
with summer's invitation to play and rest,**

Thanks be to you, Holy One.

**For the birds singing their returning song
and the fragile nests that hold new life,**

Thanks be to you, Holy One.

**For the noontime heat and the lap of the tide on the shore,
Thanks be to you, Holy One.**

**For shoeless feet and toes that wriggle in sand and grass,
Thanks be to you, Holy One.**

**For the long evenings stretching out
like a blanket of restful sleep,**

Thanks be to you, Holy One.

**For the arc of this summer's day, and all that it will be,
thanks be to you, Holy One.**

**Overflowing with gratitude for the gift of this day and this time
and this community, we gather now together
at the water's edge...**

Hymn: *"I Have Called You by Your Name"*

MV #161

We Celebrate the Baptism of Hendrik Anthony Joubert



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Hendrik Anthony Joubert

Son of Jan Joubert and Maggie Cappelletti



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Minister: Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are born into the brokenness of this world.
Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are surrounded by God's unconditional love.
Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity
is the means by which we are received, at any age,
into the covenanted community of the church.
Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining,
and transforming power of God's love
and our grateful response to that grace.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE: (Shelley Mann)

On behalf of the congregation of Central United Church, I present
Hendrik Anthony Joubert, son of *Jan Joubert and Maggie Cappelletti*,
for initiation into the body of Christ, through baptism.

PROMISES OF THE PARENTS

Minister: The sacrament of baptism proclaims the grace of God.
By water and the Spirit, we are called God's own
and welcomed as children of God. Jan and Maggie:
Do you wish to have your child baptised?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Will you do everything in your power to teach Henry
what it means to be part of God's family and household
in Christ's love? Will you love him and care for him,
to the best of your ability, nurturing in him
the spirit of faith each and every day of your life?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

Minister: Will you share your faith with him, growing with him
in the love and knowledge of Christ within Christian
community, that he may hear the story of our faith and
be open to the grace and purpose of God in his life,
and to the call of Christian discipleship?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

Minister: Will you honour Henry, as a beautiful gift of God,
giving him the foundation for self-esteem
and the wisdom to esteem others?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

PROMISES OF THE CONGREGATION:

Minister: Jan and Maggie, overflowing with love for their child,
have acted on their faith in bringing him to be baptised.
They acknowledge that to raise a child in faith
takes a whole community. People in this congregation
will serve as teachers, mentors, friends,
extended family members, and role models
over the course of Henry's life.

It is a high and sacred calling.
So, as a baptised and baptising church,
will you support and nurture this family,
uphold one another in prayer
and encourage one another in faith, today and always?

***Congregation:* We will, God being our helper.**

Minister: Will you, by your words and actions,
affirm Henry for who he is
and encourage him to become all that he can be?

***Congregation:* We will, God being our helper.**

Minister: Will you learn with him and from him, and will you love
and care for him as a child of God and a sibling in Christ?

***Congregation:* We will, God being our helper.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone.

We live in God's world.

We believe in God

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word Made Flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence.
to live with respect in creation.
to love and serve others.
to seek justice and resist evil.
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE AND GIFTS

DECLARATION OF WELCOME

HYMN: *“You Have Put On Christ”* **VU #452**



Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Matthew 14:13-21
Second Reading: Acts 2:41-47

Sermon

Hymn: *“Many Are the Lightbeams”* **VU #588**

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:

**Through the sharing of what we have,
and our caring for one another,
your church, O Christ, finds it way home.
Bless what we have to share this morning,
that it might be multiplied for your good purposes,
and bless all the ways we will continue to care for one another and
our world in the weeks ahead,
that they might each reflect and reinforce your love,
until we find ourselves gathered together again. 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: "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,



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.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Some of our prayers this week were adapted for our use
from materials first written by members of the Iona Community,
including Sally Howell Johnson and Simon Taylor.
Used with gratitude and permission.*

“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 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two measures, the second staff the next two, the third staff the next two, and the fourth staff the final two measures ending with a double bar line.

Words & Music
Orlando Juarez