

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

July 27th, 2025 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister:	Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music:	John Scott
Lay Leadership:	Worship & Music Committee
Greeters:	Tom Ritcey

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VU - Voices United (red hymnal)

Prelude

Words of Welcome

♦Gathering Song: *God Of The Sparrow*

VU229

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: We are summoned here by our holy God,

All: **who calls us each by name, and gathers us together
in the unity of Jesus Christ.**

One: From home and community, from camps and classrooms,

All: **we are called into God's presence.**

One: Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families,
soft-spoken and outspoken,

All: **we hear our names being called to join in worship.**

One: This house of worship is a place to pursue
God's vision for all people:

All: **unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts.
Let us worship together!**

One: People of God,
turn and notice the faces of those we know and love—
neighbours and friends, family in the Spirit— a community of
kindred hearts.

continued...

People of God,
turn and notice all the images of God assembled here.
In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.
People of God, come. Let us worship together.

Prayer of Approach

by Karen Bridges and Shauna Gibbons—from Camping Sunday Service 2005

Creator God, we hear your wilderness cry from the depth of our souls and long to answer. We seek you out in the silence and beauty of nature, in the sound of the birds, the rustling trees, the lapping water, and the crunching of branches. Our eyes and ears are opened to your presence in the newness of day, the brisk air, and the colours of the sunrise. Be with us in this time of opening our hearts and lifting our voices, guiding us along the forest's edge into oneness with you. May we follow faithfully the way of Jesus in this and all the paths of our lives. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that we are here in Jesus' name, and that our faith is like this flame. It flickers and changes, and sometimes needs to be relit, but its brightness can fill a space.

A Time for Greeting

Let's extend a gesture of friendship and care.

Take a moment to recognize the sacredness of connection — the simple, human gestures that remind us we are not alone. Pass on a smile, a word, or a sign of peace to those around you. In this small act, we share welcome, warmth, and the spirit of belonging.

♦**Hymn:** *This Is God's Wondrous World*

VU296

Scripture Psalm 139 & selected verses

Reading "The Peace Of Wild Things" - Wendell Berry

♦**Song:** *Down To The River To Pray*

trad. American folk-hymn

Verse:

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studying about that good old way,
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way!

Refrain:

O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.

(Repeat with "brothers" "fathers" "mothers" "children")

Reflection - Shelley Mann

A Time for Stillness

♦**Song:** *What A Wonderful World*

Bob Thiele, George D. Weiss

I see trees of green, red roses too
I watch them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue, clouds of white
The bright blessed day and the dark sacred night
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

The colours of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of the people passing by
I see friends shaking hands, saying, how do you do?"
What they're really saying is "I love you."

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll know much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself: What a Wonderful World
Yes I think to myself: What a Wonderful World

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

Offering Sentences

Leader: If we knew that our actions were the only experience a person had of God's love, would this change how we treat others?
We are called to love one another as God loves us—all of us.
Those who are nothing like us, those who live somewhere else,
those who are undeserving in our eyes. Let us give freely as
God gives to us.

♦Offertory Song: *We Are an Offering*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, time signatures, rests, and accidentals. There are also repeat signs and first/second endings marked with '1.' and '2.'. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our Lord, use our Lord, use our lives up to you; we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our of-fer-ing. lives, they are yours; we are an All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.'

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our Lord, use our Lord, use our

lives up to you; we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our of-fer-ing.

lives, they are yours; we are an

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our

hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an

of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Prayer for the Offering

Leader: Generous God, you know what the world needs, and our faith in your guidance inspires us to give. Please accept our freely given gifts, and use them through this congregation and Mission and Service for ministry where they are needed most. Amen.

So as we offer our gifts, we ask that you bless them in Jesus' name, that others may understand and believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: Let us pray—
Gracious God, you are so good to us.
Today we offer thanks for the gift of rest and renewal,
for the chance to step away from busyness and find peace.
For the beauty of your creation all around us—
the forests and fields, the beaches and streams,
the rising sun and evening sky, the wind and rain,

All: we give you thanks, O God.

One: For the gift of time to breathe and reflect,
to be refreshed by the rhythms of nature,
to feel your presence in stillness and movement,
and to find joy in moments of recreation and restoration.

All: we give you thanks, O God.

One: For the many who create and care for places of peace,
who offer their time and talents to nurture these spaces,
and who welcome all to experience healing and hope.

All: we give you thanks, O God.

One: God of love, in whose presence we live and move,
we pray for a world longing to be known,
cherished, and valued as unique.

All: Ever-present Spirit, source of all love,

continued...

One: We pray for a world torn by conflict and war,
a world living in the shadow of fear,
uncertain about the days to come.

All: Ever-present Spirit, source of all hope,

One: We pray for a world that forgets to care for others,
where divisions between nations, races, religions,
neighbours, and families breed distrust.

All: Ever-present Spirit, source of all peace,

One: We pray for a world short on joy,
too busy to appreciate the beauty of creation,
too caught up in living to truly embrace life.

All: Ever-present Spirit, source of all joy,

One: We pray for a world whose spiritual hunger
is filled by passing trends and quick fixes,
without thought for deeper meaning or tomorrow.

All: Ever-present Spirit, source of our salvation,

One: We pray for a world that needs to know your love,
your hope, your peace, and your joy.
A world that needs to know it is precious, unique,
and deeply held in your embrace. **Amen.**

As we hold these prayers for our broken and restless world,
may we also remember the healing power found in your
creation. May rest and renewal restore our spirits so we can
carry your peace forward.

Bless all who seek refreshment in your creation,
and may we carry your peace and grace into the days ahead,
through Christ's love. **Amen.**

One: Let us join together in the prayer that Jesus gave his followers.

The Lord's Prayer

Jamie Brown



Cre - a - tor in heav - en hal-low-ed 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.

Benediction (saying together)

As we go from here, may we move with the steady rhythm of the tide. May the sun warm our backs, and the calm of summer settle in our hearts. May the One who stirs the wind and guides the waves renew our souls, and may we walk into the coming days with gratitude, gentleness, and joy.

♦Closing Hymn: *God Who Breathes Through All Creation* (HYFRYDOL)

God who breathes through all creation,
Making earth and sky and sea,
In your goodness we awaken
To the gifts you give so free.
Sun and silence, rest and wonder,
Waves that wash the soul in peace—
All around, your voice is sounding,
Calling us to love's release.

In the stillness, you are speaking;
In the storm, your Spirit sings.
From the seedling gently reaching
To the eagle's soaring wings,
You restore the earth each morning,
You renew our hearts with grace.
Teach us care and deep compassion
As we move through time and place.

God of Sabbath, God of sunlight,
May we walk the sacred way—
Grateful for the world around us,
Rooted in each shining day.
Let our lives reflect your beauty,
Let our hands reach out in care,
So the earth and all its people
Know the hope we're called to share.

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Written at the request of J. Scott Central United Church

Postlude

Our worship service today is adapted from and comprised of resources made available through the United Church and Gathering Magazine.

Announcements