

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

July 5th, 2026

A Service of Celebration for Lunenburg County Pride Week

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: James Blinn

Greeters: Janet Robertson & Jim Pittman

Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com

Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca

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.

Prelude

Gathering Music: "For All The Children"



1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when



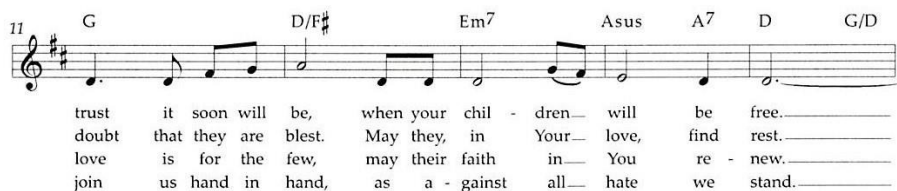
raise our song a - bove, and we dare to claim the pro - mise of Your
one day they be free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to
short by fear and shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they
chil - dren far and wide can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and



love, though the day may not yet be here, we
be, that they nev - er have a rea - son to
love. May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your
pride. As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they

(Cont'd next page)

11 G D/F# Em7 Asus A7 D G/D



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren— will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in Your— love, find rest.
 love is for the few, may their faith in— You re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all— hate we stand.

16 D REFRAIN G D/F# G



— O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen

20 D/F# Em D/F# Asus



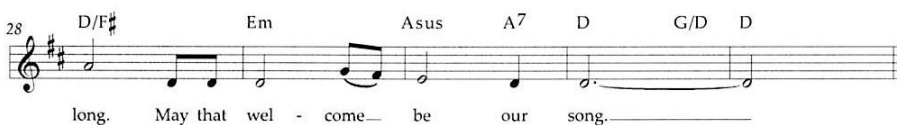
wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry-one in - side.

24 F#7/A# Bm D/A G



— For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -

28 D/F# Em Asus A7 D G/D D



long. May that wel - come— be our song.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

In the face of hatred... **we choose love.**

In the face of fear... **we choose joy.**

In the face of rhetoric and intolerance,
we choose radical welcome and deep hospitality.

In the face of homophobia, transphobia, racism and xenophobia
**we stand up for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights
 and justice for all people.**

In the face of isolation and exclusion,
**we proclaim this space to be safe
 and every person to be sacred.**

Here, we celebrate Divine diversity
and the beauty of the whole human family.

A kaleidoscope of life reflecting God's rainbow of love

Whatever your pronouns

you are welcome here.

Whatever your identity

you are celebrated here.

Whatever else you might have been told in the past,

you are loved.

However you love, whoever you love,

whatever love looks like to you,

you are not alone. We are with you. God is with you.

So, come, let us worship together.

Hymn: *"God of Many Faces"* *(Tune: SLANE)*

1. God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever-growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.
2. God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.
3. God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new names that reflect our true souls.
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word
that will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.
4. God of many bodies, abide within ours,
shifting more each day through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
holier every day, still becoming more true.

Words of Welcome

A Prayer of Longing and Hope:

God of the Rainbow,

**More than those who watch for morning,
our souls wait, for the day when each of us,
of every gender expression, gender identity,
and sexual orientation knows that we are meant to be:**

**loved, cherished, and protected; and
that we are to be:**

proud of our identities; and celebrated.

**For we are your imperfectly perfect children,
called to reflect Christ's radiant light,
embody Christ's radical love;**

**and build your beloved community,
especially when storms of fear and hatred rage around us.**

**And so, more than those who watch for morning,
we, in our great diversity,**

wait for your promised rainbow of peace,

**as we work towards a world where every gender expression,
gender identity, and sexual orientation is affirmed
as beloved; and, every soul's spirit is able to sparkle, shine
and sing your dream with pride.**

May it be so,

Amen.



Hymn:

“God Calls You Good”

Leader first time
then vs 1, 2, 1

Paul M. Vasile



God call you good, be-lov-ed child. You are a trea -
God calls me good, be lov-ed child. I am a trea -



- sure deep-ly prized. And you can say to ev - 'ry doubt-ing
- sure deep-ly prized. And I can say to ev - 'ry doubt-ing



voice: 'God calls you good, be - lov - ed child.'
voice: God calls me good, be - lov - ed child.



'God calls you good, be-lov-ed child.'
God calls me good, be-lov-ed child.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14

A Pride Message from Moderator Kimberly Heath

A Video Reflection: “Faith and Identity are Not in Conflict”

Hymn:

“Love Astounding”




Love a-stound ing, Love con - found ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.
Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

(Cont'd next page)



Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us, we be-long



Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid-ing gen-tle grace,
safe with - in Love's ten-der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis-tent call.



Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur-ance, Love's con - sol-ing strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end-ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

Text: Janette Lindholm, 1999

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 Justice, even as we celebrate your love
for 2SLGBTQIA+ people today,**

we remember that the church has not always done so.

**We acknowledge the harm that continues to be done in your
name today. As we bring our offerings, we bring also a renewed
commitment to interrupting prejudice and practicing solidarity.**

**We press on together until people of every sexual orientation
and gender identity can live freely and without fear,
receiving the love and support all people deserve.**

In the name and way of Jesus, may it one day be so. Amen.

A Litany for Pride

One: Blessed are your children, God.

All: **Blessed are the sacred weird ones.
Blessed are the holy and wholly different.
Blessed are the ones who are too loud, too bold,
too wild, too much.**

**Blessed are your gay, lesbian,
and bisexual children.
Blessed are your trans, non-binary,
and gender non-conforming children.**

**Blessed are your children
who we are all learning to name, describe, and know.**

One: Blessed are your children, God.

All: **Blessed are those who have come out.
Blessed are those who cannot.
Blessed are those who are still finding their way.
Blessed are those who feel boxed in.
Blessed are those who feel shackled by tradition.
Blessed are those who are suffocated
by the roars of expectation.**

**Blessed are those who struggle
with self-harm and self-hatred.
Blessed are those who strive to accept
the person they see in the mirror.
Blessed are those who strain each day just to survive.**

One: Blessed are your children, God.

All: **Blessed are those who persist.
Blessed are those who persevere.
Blessed are those who prove to the world each day
that diversity is divine**

All: **Blessed are the chosen families
who have taken in the lost and forgotten.**

**Blessed are the friends and family
who have helped rewrite the stories of lives.
Blessed are the allies who have loved those
unable to love themselves.**

One: Blessed are your children, God.

All: **Blessed are those
whose ancestral queer footsteps we walk in.
Blessed are those who marched and marched
and marched before us.
Blessed are those who have dared to dream
and dared to demand justice.**

One: Blessed are your children, God.
Every single one of them.

All: **And blessed are we as we
Tirelessly, Courageously,
Imaginatively Co-create with you
a world where all people know and feel and have love.**

One: All sexualities.

All: **All genders.**

One: All gender expressions.

All: **All families.**

One: All bodies.

All: **All children**

One: Holy One, guide us toward your strange,
boundless, undefinable love.

All: **And when we are met with the sneers, side-eye,
and shame of the world, remind us who walks
this journey with us – You!**

One: You, who has shattered every norm, every box,
every shackle that holds us down
and calls us to do the same.
In your radical, relentless, loving name, we pray. Amen.

All: **Amen!**

Closing Hymn: "Sing A New World Into Being"



Sing a new world in-to be-ing, sound a bold and hope-ful theme.
Sing a new world in-to be-ing where each gen-der class and race
Sing a new world in-to be-ing where the home less find a home,
Sing a new world in-to be-ing, join the an-cient proph-et's cry



Find a tune for si-lent yearn-ings, lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain-bow gifts and col-ours to God's lim-it-less em-brace;
where no chil-dren ev-er hun-ger but are filled with God's sha-lom;
for a time of health and plen-ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor-ship find their lives and loves be-
where the lines that once di-vi-ded form in- stead the ties that
where all peo-ple work for jus-tice, where all hate and ven-geance
when com-pas-sion flows like wa-ters, pour-ing balm for all who



long. Sing a new world in-to be-ing: sing as Christ in-spires your song!
bind. Sing a new world in-to be-ing: risk trans-form-ing heart and mind!
cease. Sing a new world in-to be-ing: raise the har-mo-nies of peace.
grieve. Sing a new world in-to be-ing: live the prom-is you be-lieve!

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A Litany for Pride was written by Sam Lundquist.

Our prayer for hope and longing was written by Alydia Smith and is alternatively called "Waiting for God's Rainbow". Used with gratitude and permission.

The land on which we live, and work and worship is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As a community committed to the work of truth and reconciliation, we strive to live in the ways of peace and friendship with all who share this land and call it home.

One in Christ Jesus

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Too often, members of the community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people have not experienced the radical inclusion that Jesus modelled. To be accepted, they have often denied part of who they were—or, despairing of being accepted, have left the church.

Our United Church has accepted God’s call to show God’s love and care by welcoming people as they are, with all the gifts they bring to the community and to the church. Our gifts for Mission and Service help to enable this vital work of radical inclusion through Affirm United and many community ministries such as Rainbow Ministry in Winnipeg, all of which do their best to express God’s love to the people they serve.

Peterborough, Ontario’s, Pride Day parade includes members of St. Andrew’s United Church, Peterborough Affirm United, Shining Waters Presbytery, and many others.

God’s Mission, Our Gifts
The Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada



La mission de Dieu, pour nous, par nous
La mission & le service de l’Église Unie du Canada