



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

June 21st, 2026 – National Indigenous Peoples' Day

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Natasha Backs

Greeters: Sherrie & Ivan Carey

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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.

We welcome and give thanks to Shari Porter
for leading our music this morning.

Prelude

Gathering Music: “O Beautiful Gaia”

MV #41

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Each of us has an essential rhythm:

Our heartbeat.

Each of us has an essential sound:

Our breath.

Each of us has an essential yearning:

To belong.

In this way, we're all the same.

We are, each of us, miracles of creation,

born to celebrate the music of creation,

and to join in the cosmic dance going on all around us.

Come, you miracles of creation, each of you,

and let us worship and dance together!

Hymn: “Creator God You Gave Us Life”

MV #27

Scripture: Luke 10:25-28
Story: “Creator Does Not Tell Us Who to Love”

Silence

Song: ***Be Still and Know that I am God.*** MV #77

Scripture: John 20:30-31 & John 21:25
Story: “Scrolls”

Silence

Song: ***Be Still and Know that I am God.*** MV #77

Response: For the Word of God Around Us,
For the Word of God Among Us,
For the Word of God Within Us – Thanks be to God.
May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

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:

Creator God,

Bless our lives and our gifts this morning,

that through our living and our sharing, we might continue to walk together with one another and all our relations in a good and a healing way.

In the name and way of Jesus, we walk and pray. Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer:

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

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn: “*Like A Healing Stream*” MV #144

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Our call to worship and benediction today are inspired by or adapted from materials first written by Richard Wagamese and published in his books “Embers” (2016) and “What Comes From Spirit” (2021). Our stories are drawn from his book, “What Comes From Spirit”.

*If you would like to borrow either of these books,
speak with Rev. Daniel.*



The visual identities for National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day bring together meaningful symbols and vibrant colours to highlight the richness and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures.

In the centre are three symbols: a feather, a narwhal, and a fiddle. Each represents the distinct cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, brought together in a circular flowing composition to reflect the connection between the groups.

To learn more, please visit rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Richard Wagamese is an Ojibwe writer and author who was born in Northern Ontario, and is considered one of Canada's greatest published Indigenous storytellers.

Having been separated from his parents at a young age, and spending many years in the foster care system, before rediscovering his people, his culture and his language as an adult, Richard writes a great deal about the need for healing, for mutual understanding, for relationship-building between settler and Indigenous Peoples, and advocates for deep listening and understanding as the way to reconciliation.

Through his writing, Richard speaks tenderly and profoundly about the qualities that unite us as spiritual and human beings, whether settler or Indigenous, and invites us to rediscover that common ground we share, as the foundation for healing and reconciliation.

*Today, in honour of National Indigenous Peoples' Day, we are blending some of his writings with stories from our own sacred text, in the hope that together, they will open us to that common ground, hearing in both voices, the underlying call to be people of spirit, people of hope, people of love, and people of understanding....
After all, as Wagamese reminds us:*

"There are no strangers. The same North Star guides us all home"