

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

UT OMNES UNUM SINT

AKWE NIA'TETEWÁ:NEREN

**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
**Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Email: [centralsecretary@bellaliant.com](mailto:centralsecretary@bellaliant.com)  
VU: Voices United (red book)

Website: [www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca](http://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 welcome and thank Sharon Gow-Knickle  
for leading our music this morning.

## **Prelude**

**Gathering Music:** “*This Is The Day*” **VU #412**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Call to Worship:**

Welcome, you who feel the weight of the world so keenly

**You teach us the Way of Compassion.**

Welcome, you who never stop asking hard questions

**You teach us the Way of Justice.**

Welcome, you whose eyes always twinkle with glee

**You teach us the Way of Joy.**

Welcome, you who are tired and looking to rest.

**You teach us the Way of Sabbath.**

Welcome, you whose lives are a little, or a lot, messy,  
and still you showed up anyway.

**You teach us the Way of Resilience.**

Whoever you are, whatever you bring,

**We see God at work in you.**

Whoever you are, whatever you bring,

**We see Christ at work in you.**

Whoever you are, whatever you bring,

**We see the Spirit at work in you.**

So welcome, all of you,

you unsuspecting prophets of hope, compassion, justice, and joy.

**Come, let us worship together!**

**Hymn:**                    *“There’s a Spirit in the Air”*

**VU #582**

## **Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land**

**A Prayer for Renewal:**

**Holy God, in earth, and sea and sky,**

**you are there;**

**in everything we touch;**

**in everyone we meet;**

**your presence is ’round us.**

**For the times we have not touched,**

**but trampled you in creation – forgive us.**

**For the times we have not met,**

**but missed you in one another – forgive us.**

**For the times we have not received**

**but rejected you in the poor – forgive us.**

**For the times we have explained away miracles**

**and domesticated your wild, transforming ways, forgive us.**

**Forgive us, then teach us to see you afresh all around us,**

**and to live as if that makes a difference.**

**A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer**

**Words of Assurance**

**Hymn:**                    *“Come and Find the Quiet Centre”*

**VU #374**

**Scripture Readings:**

*First Testament:*            Genesis 18:1–14

*Gospel:*                         Matthew 10:40–42

**Sermon**

**Hymn:**     *“We Meet You, O Christ, in Many a Guise”*     **VU #183**

**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:**

**Jesus, who invites us to give  
a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty,  
you remind us that blessings come in all sizes,  
and giving doesn’t have to be complicated.  
Take what we have to offer this week, and bless it we pray,  
that, just like that cup of water,  
these gifts might bring nourishment, life, kindness and care  
to all who receive them. Amen.**


**Sung Invitation to Prayer:**

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

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:**     *“A Prophet Has A Lonely Task”*



A pro - phet has a lone - ly task  
On ci - ty streets a - mong the poor,  
O Lord, you taught us: Hear their shout!  
For in our wel - come, Lord, we'll find



To help the world\_ to see a - new,  
In pla - ces spoiled for oil or coal,  
Re - ceive their call to turn from sin!  
A li - ving faith, a new world - view,

*(Cont'd next page)*



To name in - jus - tice, then to ask  
 At yet a - no - ther time of war,  
 When o - thers seek to shut them out,  
 A life more peace - ful, just and kind,



What God is cal - ling us to do.  
 A pro - phet seeks the na - tion's soul.  
 The church must wel - come pro - phets in.  
 A church that glad - ly wel - comes you.

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## Commissioning and Benediction

### Postlude

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## The United Church Crest

The church crest is the official signature of The United Church of Canada and visually presents the cornerstone of our faith and the traditions that shape us. As such, the crest displays our spiritual and historic roots. At the 41st General Council in August 2012, the United Church acknowledged the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal peoples in the church by revising the crest.

Three churches joined together in 1925 to become the United Church. The open Bible represents the Congregational churches, with their emphasis upon God's truth that makes people free. The dove is emblematic of the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10), whose transforming power has been a distinctive mark of Methodism. A symbol of Presbyterianism, the burning bush refers to the bush that burned and was not consumed (Exodus 3:2), and it signifies the indestructibility of the church.

The oval shape echoes the outline of a fish, a symbol of identity adopted by early Christians because the initials of the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour" spell the Greek word for fish. As the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, the "X" at the centre is a traditional symbol of the Saviour. The symbols alpha and omega in the lower quarter are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They symbolize the eternal living God, in the fullness of creation (Revelation 1:8).

The background colours of the quadrants of the crest incorporate the colours often associated with the Aboriginal Medicine Wheel, which reflects respect for diversity and interdependence. The four traditional colours of yellow, red, black, and white incorporate important teachings from the four directions, the four stages of life, and the four seasons.

In the perimeter ribbon, the Latin words *ut omnes unum sint* mean "That all may be one." Taken from John 17:21, they remind us that we are both a "united" and "uniting" church. The French translation of The United Church of Canada—L'Église Unie du Canada—was added by the 28th General Council in 1980. A phrase from Canada's many Indigenous languages is the latest amendment: Akwe Nia' Tetewá:neren\* ("All my relations"). These Mohawk words share Aboriginal peoples' understanding of Christ's vision that encompasses all. Mohawk was chosen because the first documented ministry between Aboriginal peoples and the founding denominations began in 1822 between the Mohawks and Methodist missionaries.

Through God's grace, we are indeed a "united" and "uniting" church, and we live this out even in our crest. Thanks be to God.

[\*aw gway-- nyah day day waw-- nay renh]

**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