

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
March 1st, 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Graham Pearson
Greeters: Janet Robertson & Jim Pittman

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.

Prelude

Gathering Music: “We Are A Wilderness Wandering People”

* Words and Music by Jim Strathdee

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We are a wil-der-ness wand-'ring peo-ple on a jour-ney of the soul. May we find our des-ti-na-tion in our long-ing to be whole. Our Ho-ly God is call-ing to us. With Je-sus by our side may com-pas-sion be our com-pass; may the Spi-rit be our guide, on The Way, on the Way, on the Way!"

* in response to "Wilderness Wanderings" by Marilyn Brown Oden

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Lent worship series, "The Way." <https://worshipdesignstudio.com/theway>

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Living in a world of growing division and isolation

We turn towards each other again.

Valuing the gift of our shared humanity,

We turn towards each other again.

Seeking companionship, encouragement, community and support,

We turn towards each other again.

Offering empathy, compassion and mutual care,

We turn towards each other again.

Open to learning from and with one another

We turn towards each other again.

Remembering that we are not meant to journey alone

We turn towards each other again.

Come, let us journey together,

with curiosity, respect, hope and love.

We journey on, with the Spirit as our guide.

Hymn: *“We Are Pilgrims On A Journey”*

VU #595

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

God of pilgrims who share this journey,

God of travellers upon this road:

This path changes us.

The conversations we have, and the views we’ve gained;

The hurt we’ve endured and the muscles we’ve trained,

– they bring us to a new place,

and to a newer sense of ourselves.

As we unpack the things we’ve carried

and recount the things we’ve lost,

may we marvel again at the journey itself,

the gift of walking with others,

along a path that takes us into and beyond ourselves.

Amen.

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

Words of Assurance

Hymn:

“Here I Am To Worship”



Light of the world, you stepped down in - to dark - ness,
King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed,



o - pened my eyes, let me see.
glo - rious in heav - en a - bove.



Beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,
Hum - bly You came to the earth you cre - a - ted,



hope of a life spent with You. So, here I am to
all for love's sake be - came poor.



wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to



say that you're my God You're al - to - geth - er



love - ly, al - to - geth - er wor - thy, al - to - geth - er



won - der - ful to me And I'll nev

Here I Am To Worship (cont'd)

- er know_ how much_ it___ cost_ to see_
_ my sin___ up- on___ that_ cross. And I'll nev -
that_ cross.. So here I am to

D.S. al

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a fermata over a whole note, then continues with the melody. The lyrics are: '- er know_ how much_ it___ cost_ to see_ / _ my sin___ up- on___ that_ cross. And I'll nev - / that_ cross.. So here I am to'. The instruction 'D.S. al' with a Da Capo symbol is placed above the end of the second staff.

Scripture Reading:

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Sermon

Hymn:

"We Are One"

VU #402

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"From You I Receive"*

From you I re- ceive, to you I give, to -
geth- er we share, and from this we live.

Joseph and Nathan Segel

The musical score is written on two staves in D minor (two flats) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a fermata over a whole note, then continues with the melody. The lyrics are: 'From you I re- ceive, to you I give, to - / geth- er we share, and from this we live.'. The composer's name 'Joseph and Nathan Segel' is written above the first staff.

Dedication of Our Gifts:

**God of every journey,
Let the gifts we offer today
become stepping stones of peace and justice.
Let them smooth the path ahead
for those whose way is rough.
Let them forge a trail of hope
through the wilderness of despair and oppression.
Let them be a waymarker of love and kindness,
for all who feel lost,
and let them be the welcome rest
at the end of every hard trek.
God of every journey, bless our gifts,
as we continue to walk in your Way.
Amen.**

Sung Invitation to Prayer: “When Our Heart Is In A Holy Place”

Words & Music: Joyce Poley

When our heart is in a ho - ly place, When our
heart is in a ho - ly place We are bless'd with love and a -
maz-ing grace, When our heart is in a ho - ly place. When we
trust the wis - dom in each of us, Ev' - ry
tell our sto - ry from deep in side, And we
share the si - lence of sa - cred space, And the
col - our ev' - ry creed and kind, And we
lis - ten with a lov - ing mind, And we
God of our Heart stirs with - in, And we

We Would Be One



We would be one as now we join in sing-ing
We would be one in build-ing for to - mor-row



our hymn of love, to pledge our - selves a - new
a nobl - er world than we have known to - day.



to that high cause of great - er un - der-stand-ing
We would be one in search-ing for that mean-ing



of who we are, and what in us is true.
which bends our hearts and points us on our way.



We would be one in liv - ing for each oth - er
As one, we pledge our - selves to great - er ser - vice,



to show to all a new com-mun - i - ty.
with love and jus - tice, strive to make us free.

words: Samuel Anthony Wright
tune: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius

Lord's Prayer

Jamie Brown



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.