



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
March 15th, 2026 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Natasha Backs
Greeters: Carolyn McAllister & Corella Courtney

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*” (back page)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

The journey through Lent
is a journey not of distance but of the heart.

Jesus calls us not to journey far, but to journey closer.

closer to one another,

closer to the Divine,

closer to the needs of this world.

As our journey continues today,

may every step, every prayer, every action we take,

draw us deeper into connection with one another

and with our world.

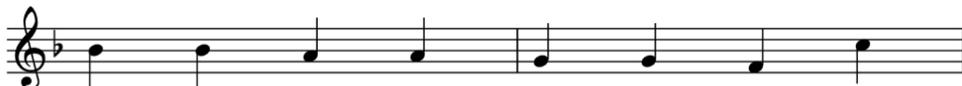
May this time and space apart, widen our perspective,
broaden our understanding, and expand our vision of the world,
allowing us to move farther from that which separates us,
and closer to God’s dream of flourishing and life for all.

Ready to follow Christ’s lead, we journey on...

Hymn: "O Christ, The Healer, We Have Come"



O Christ, the hea - ler, we have come To
From ev' - ry ail - ment flesh en - dures Our
How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires How
In con - flicts that des - troy our health We
Grant that we all, made one in faith, In



pray for health, to plead for friends. How
bo - dies cla - mour to be freed; Yet
weak our know - ledge of our - selves! Re -
re - cog - nize the world's dis - ease; Our
your com - mu - ni - ty may find The



can we fail to be re - stored, When
in our hearts we would con - fess That
lease in us those heal - ing truths Un -
com - mon life de - clares our ills: Is
whole - ness that, en - ri - ching us, Shall



reached by love that ne - ver ends?
whole - ness is our deep - est need.
con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
there no cure, O Christ, for these?
reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

**When life and the world become overwhelming, O God,
it is easy to turn away,
to set off across the hills and to not look back,
choosing to protect ourselves rather than to risk the messiness
of compassion and care.
But that is not our path, is it?**

And when the ways we learn and grow
Are not the ways that others know,
We thank you, God, that we have learned
Your love's a gift, and never earned.

Your Spirit gives us differing ways
To serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
Your able, strong community.

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"From You I Receive"*

Joseph and Nathan Segel

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

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: "We Have Been Told"



We have been told, we've seen Christ's face, and heard his



voice a-live in our hearts: "Live in my love with all your heart;



as the Fa-ther has loved me, so I have loved you."

Verses sung by choir or soloist



"I am the vine, you are the branch-es, and
"You are my friends if you keep my commands,
"No great-er love is there than this: to



all_ who live in me will bear_ great fruit."
no long - er slaves, I call you friends."
lay down one's life for_ a friend."

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer



Cre - a - tor in heav - en hal-owed 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.

Closing Hymn: "God, Whose Almighty Word"

VU #313

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Some of our prayers today have been inspired by materials written by Marcia McFee or adapted for our use from resources first written by members of the Iona Community. Used with gratitude and permission.

Gathering Music:

“We Are A Wilderness Wandering People”

* Words and Music by Jim Strathdee

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music, each with a measure number (1, 6, 11, 16) at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. 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!"

1 We are a wil-der-ness wand-ring peo-ple on a jour-ney of the soul. May we

6 find our des-ti-na-tion in our long-ing to be whole. Our Ho-ly God is call-ing

11 to us. With Je-sus by our side may com-pas-sion be our com-pass; may the

16 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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