



**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
**Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Minister:** Rev. Daniel MacDonald  
**Minister of Music:** John Scott  
**Lay Reader:** James Blinn  
**Greeters:** Tom Ritcey

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.*

**Prelude**

**Gathering Music:** “We Are A Wilderness Wandering People”

\* Words and Music by Jim Strathdee

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Weare a wil-der-ness wand-ring peo-ple on a jour-ney of the soul. May we". The second staff continues: "find our des - ti - na - tion in our long-ing to be whole. Our Ho-ly God is call - ing". The third staff continues: "to us. With Je - sus by our side may com - pas - sion be our com - pass; may the". The fourth staff concludes: "Spi - rit be our guide, on The Way, on the Way, on the Way!".

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship:**

In every crumbling wall, there is a tenacious, growing weed.

**Hope journeys with us still.**

After every winter chill, the robins return to the land.

**Hope journeys with us still.**

Within every patch of earth, lies dormant seeds of rebirth.

**Hope journeys with us still.**

Beyond every headline of hate,  
lives a community relearning love.

**Hope journeys with us still.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

**Hope journeys with us still.**

Come, beloved, let us journey on,  
open and alive to the hope and the gift of life all around us.

**With hearts and minds and spirits open, we come.**

**Let us worship.**

**Hymn:**

*“Sing Out, Earth And Skies”*



1. Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O  
2. Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with  
3. Come, O God of flash-ing light: Twin - kling star and  
4. Come, O God of snow and rain: Show - er down up -  
5. Come, O Jus - tice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our



Right - eous One; Come, and bring our love to birth:  
right - eous - ness; Teach us all to sing your name:  
burn - ing sun; God of day and God of night:  
on the earth; Come, O God of joy and pain:  
hearts a - new; Come and make op - pres - sion cease:



In the glo - ry of your Son.  
May our lives your love con - fess.  
In your light we all are one.  
God of sor - row, God of mirth.  
Bring us all to life in you.

**Refrain**



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!



Raise your joy-ful cries! Dance to the life a - round you!

## Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

### A Prayer for Renewal:

God of the desert and God of the valley,  
God of every upward climb, and every downward spiral,  
as we continue our Lenten journey, we acknowledge, together,  
how we all get stuck from time to time along the way,  
caught in the mud and the weeds  
and the ditches of daily living.

Anxiety and doubt seep into us  
like dampness after a heavy rain,  
fear and heartache weigh us down like caked-on mud  
and constant news of the world's suffering  
clouds our horizon, like a fog.

God of the sunshine and God of the springtime,  
Lift us out of these ruts we get stuck in,  
Break through the fog of our despair,  
like green shoots break through concrete,  
and set our feet on dry ground,  
that we might find our way once again.  
Grateful for your breath of life that restores our hope,  
we journey on together...

### A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

#### Words of Assurance

#### Hymn:

*"Ancient Words"*



Ho - ly words long pre - served for our walk in this  
Ho - ly words of our faith hand - ed down to this

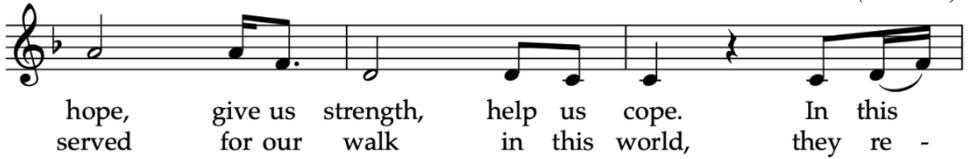


world, they re - sound with God's own heart. O let the  
age came to us through sac - ri - fice. O heed the

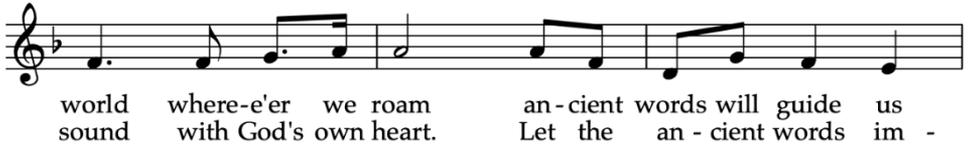


an - cient words im - part. Words of life, words of  
faith - ful words of Christ. Ho - ly words long pre

*Ancient Words (Cont'd)*



hope, give us strength, help us cope. In this  
served for our walk in this world, they re -



world where-e'er we roam an-cient words will guide us  
sound with God's own heart. Let the an-cient words im -

*Chorus*



home. An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing  
part.



me and chang-ing you. We have come with op-en



hearts, O let the an-cient words im-part.

Michael W. Smith

**Scripture Reading:**

*First Testament:* Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Choir Anthem:** *“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, O my soul!  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

*What Wondrous Love... (Cont'd)*

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

(trad. Shapenote Hymn, 1835 arr. W. Witherup)

**Sermon**

**Hymn:** *"Breathe On Me, Breath of God"*

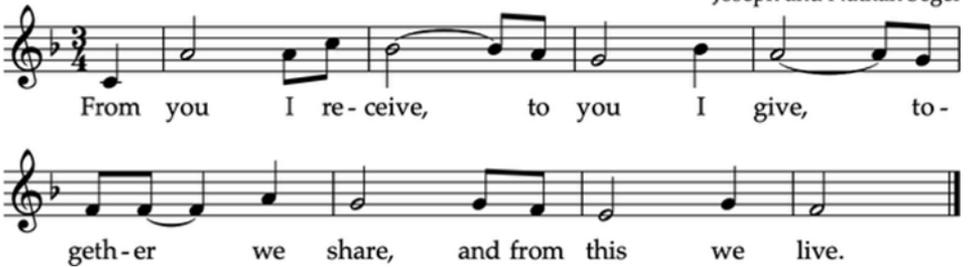
**VU #382**

**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: "Bathe Me In Your Light"

MV #82

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer



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.

**Closing Hymn:**

*“O Breath Of Life”*



O Breath of life, come sweep - ing through us, re -  
O Wind of God, come bend us, break us till  
O Breath of love, come breathe with - in us, re -



vive your church with life and pow'r; O  
hum - bly we con - fess our need; then,  
new - ing thought and will and heart; come,



breath of life, come, cleanse, re - new us and  
in your ten - der - ness re - make us, re -  
love of Christ, a - fresh to win us, re -



fit your church to meet this hour.  
vive, re - store for this we plead.  
vive your church in ev - ery part.

**Commissioning and Benediction:**

**Postlude**

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*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.*