

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
March 8th, 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Carolyn McAllister
Greeters: Carolyn & Oliver Levy

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:

Come, people of God, and rest here a while.

The well is deep and the journey is long.

We come to renew our strength.

Wherever you're journeying, whatever your histories,
come, people of God, and rest here a while.

The well is deep and the journey is long.

We come to renew our strength.

Whatever you carry, whoever is with you,
come, people of God, and rest here a while.

The well is deep and the journey is long.

We come to renew our strength.

Whether stranger or neighbour, enemy or friend,
come, people of God, and rest here a while

The well is deep and the journey is long.

We come to renew our strength.

Bring your vessels, your cup, and all that needs to be filled,
then come, people of God, and rest here a while.

The well is deep and the journey is long.

We come to renew our strength.

Drink deep. Rest well. Be nourished.

We rest by the Waters of Life.

Hymn: *"I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say"*

VU #626

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

Tired from his journey, Jesus sat by the well,
seeking to be renewed and restored.

We too, Loving One, are tired at times,
carrying many heavy and difficult loads.

Burdened by cultural stereotypes and assumptions,
a Samaritan woman came to fetch water.

We too, Loving One, are burdened at times,
weighed down by assumptions and stereotypes.

(Cont'd next page)

Here, like them, may we be renewed.
 Here, like them, may we overcome our divisions.
 Here, like them, may we find nourishment for body and soul, and
 here, like them, may we set down all that holds us back,
 so that we might carry on our journeys with courage, with joy,
 with honesty, compassion and faith.
 Eager to drink deep of your life-giving water,
 we open ourselves to you now in this time of silent reflection...

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer
Words of Assurance

Hymn: *“Speak, O Lord”*



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You_ to re-ceive the food of Your
 Teach us Lord full o - be - di-ence, ho - ly rev - er-ence, true hu-
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your



ho - ly word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;_ Shape and
 mil - i - ty._ Test our thoughts and our at - ti-tudes in the
 plans for us._ Truths un-changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us__ in Your like - ness; that the light of Christ might be
 ra - di-ance_ of Your pu - ri - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your



seen__ to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of__ faith..
 eyes__ to see_ Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es;_ And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord (Cont'd)



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; Let their
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the



pur - pos-es, for Your glo - ry.
truth pre-vail ov - er un - be-lief.
earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Scripture Reading:

Gospel:

John 4:5-15

Sermon

Hymn:

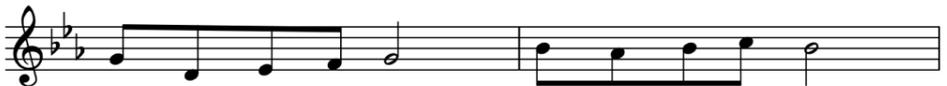
"Woman In The Night"

Brian Wren

Jane Marshall



Wom-an in the night, spent from giv - ing birth,
Wom-an at the well, ques - tion the Mes - si - ah
Wom-an in the house, nur - tured to be meek,
Wom-en on the hill, stand when men have fled!
Wom-en in the dawn, care and spi - ces bring;



guard our pre - cious light: peace is on the earth!
find your friends and tell: drink your heart's de - sire!
leave your sec - ond place, list - en, think, and speak!
Christ needs lov - ing still, though your hope is dead.
ear - li - est to mourn, ear - li - est to sing!

Refrain



Come and join the song, wom - en, chil - dren, men.



Je - sus makes us free to live a - gain!

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: *“And When You Call For Me”* MV #96

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: “*By The Well, A Thirsty Woman*”

MV #117

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 Steve Garnaas-Holmes. Used with gratitude and permission.