

**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
**Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Minister:** Rev. Daniel MacDonald  
**Minister of Music:** John Scott  
**Lay Reader:** Valerie Rowlands  
**Greeters:** Sherrie & Ivan Carey

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:** “There’s A Wild Hope In The Wind”



1 There's a wild hope in the wind: her  
 2 There's a wild hope in the skies: her  
 3 There's a wild hope in the earth: her



whis - per is heard on the breeze. The  
 gown is the blue of for - ev - er. The  
 bod - y pro - vides us with nur - ture. The



gale is her shout that is call - ing us out. There's a  
 pur - ple of night is her heart's pure de - light. There's a  
 dark un - der - ground is where life can a - bound. There's a



wild hope in the wind. O  
 wild hope in the skies. O  
 wild hope in the earth. O

*(Cont'd next page)*

God in the wind, come gath - er us in,  
 God in the skies, come o - pen our eyes,\*  
 God in the earth, come aid our re - birth,  
 be our cour-age and prom - ise. The fu - ture is dim, but we  
 want to live in - to a wild, wild hope.

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Call to Worship:

Some of us are wondering wanderers.

**Some are star-gazing seekers.**

Some are daring disciples,

**some are a little more doubtful.**

Some of us are curious companions of the Way,

**and some are faithful, fervent followers.**

Together, we gather as community,

seeking to embody Christ's love in the world,

**seeking to continue the story of Jesus.**

**striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.**

So, come with your wonder, come with your daring,

come with your faith and your doubt and your fervor.

Come, with your eyes wide open to the heavens,

and to the gift of life all around us.

**Come, let us worship together.**

Hymn: *"God Is Here As We Your People"*

VU #389

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

## A Prayer for Renewal:

God of endings and beginnings,  
God of life stretching up to the heavens,  
and of roots tunnelling deep into the earth,  
every day we are surrounded by moments of transition,  
opportunities for change and growth,  
experiences that invite us to welcome newness  
and say farewell to what once was.

Sometimes it is easy.

Other times, not so much.

As we stand on the threshold of yet another season of life,  
open us to the gift of your Spirit at work all around us,  
And gift us the confidence to let go of all that no longer serves us,  
so that we might welcome instead all that brings us new life.

## A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer Words of Assurance

Hymn: "Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet" (lyrics next page)

Words and Music by  
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

### CHORUS

$\text{♩} = 70$

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

5

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path. *Fine*

### VERSE

1. When I feel a - fraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right be -  
2. I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is

12

side me. Noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me  
wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side: I will love You

16

to the end. \_\_\_\_\_  
to the end. \_\_\_\_\_

*D.C. al Fine*

(*“Thy Word” – lyrics*)

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet , And a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid  
And I think I’ve lost my way  
Still You’re there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end

Verse 2

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end

**Scripture Readings:**

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:* John 17:1-11

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* Acts 1:6-14

**Sermon**

**Hymn:** “*Sing A New Church*” (Tune: Nettleton)

1. Summoned by the God who made us, Rich in our diversity,  
Gathered in the name of Jesus, Richer still in unity:

Chorus:

*Let us bring the gifts that differ, And, in splendid, varied ways,  
Sing a new church into being, One of faith and love and praise*

2. Radiant, risen from the water, Robed in holiness and light,  
Every life reflects God’s image, Every life is God’s delight.

Chorus

3. Trust the goodness of creation; Trust the Spirit strong within.  
Dare to dream the vision promised, Sprung from seed of what has been.

Chorus

4. Bring the hopes of every nation; Bring the art of every race.  
Weave a song of peace and justice: Let it sound through time and space.

Chorus

5. Draw together at one table, All the human family;  
Shape a circle ever wider, And a people ever free.

# 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:

Christ has no body now but ours.

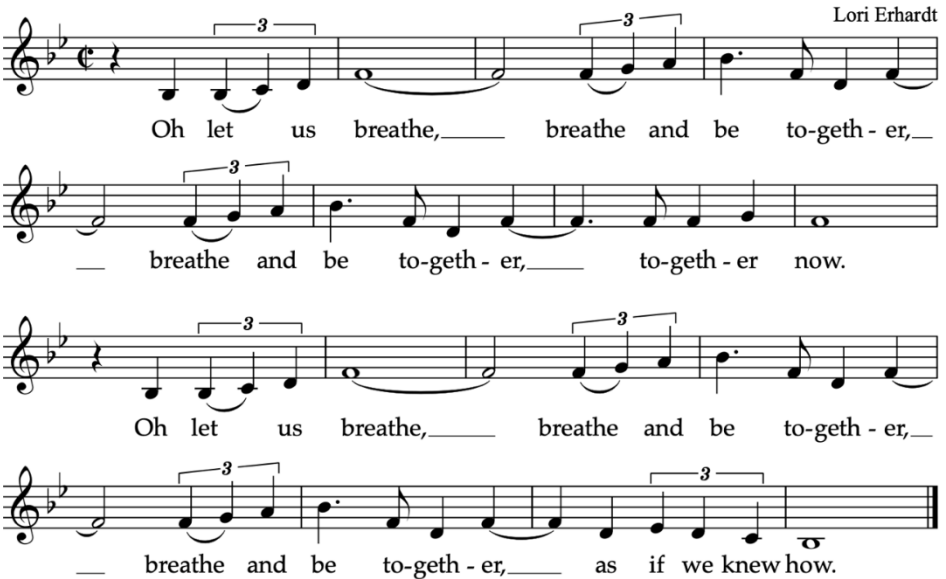
Take, then, God, all the gifts of our lives,  
and the gifts of this body,

and bless them, that they and we might help to embody  
the love and the care, the justice and the compassion  
that defined Christ’s life, and which now, we pray,  
shapes our life together as well.

May it be so. Amen.

### Sung Invitation to Prayer: *“Oh, Let Us Breathe”*

Lori Erhardt



Oh let us breathe, \_\_\_\_\_ breathe and be to-gether, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ breathe and be to-gether, \_\_\_\_\_ to-gether now.  
Oh let us breathe, \_\_\_\_\_ breathe and be to-gether, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ breathe and be to-gether, \_\_\_\_\_ as if we knew how.

Verse 2: Oh let us sing, sing by heart together,  
Sing by heart together, together now.  
Oh let us sing, sing by heart together,  
Sing by heart together, as if we knew how.

*(Cont'd next page)*

Verse 3: Oh, let us rise, arise and shine together,  
Arise and shine together, together now.  
Oh, let us arise, arise and shine together,  
Arise and shine together, as if we knew how.

Verse 4: Oh, let us pray, pray for peace together,  
Pray for peace together, together now.  
Oh, let us pray, pray for peace together,  
Pray for peace together, as if we knew how.

**Prayers of the People**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:**        *“There's A Spirit In The Air”*

**VU #582**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**

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