

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
May 24th, 2026 – The Day of Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Rachel Bailey
Greeters: Tom Ritcey & Helen Bennett

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: “*There’s A Wild Hope In The Wind*” (see back page)

A Liturgy of Wind and Flame:

When the Day of Pentecost arrived,
they were all together in one place
waiting... watching... wondering... until...
like a flame, the Spirit came upon them!

a Spirit of hope to encourage them.

a Spirit of courage to embolden them.

a Spirit of curiosity to enliven them.

a Spirit of creativity to inspire them.

In the language of their hearts, the Spirit called them.

In the language of their hearts, the Spirit challenged them.

In the language of their hearts, the Spirit commissioned them.

Then, like a wind, that Spirit-flame carried them
into the streets, into the square...

into the community all around them.

until...

it caught fire in the hearts of the wider world...

spreading and spreading and spreading until...

Today, this Pentecost, we gather...

open to the wind.

open to the flame.

open to the Spirit moving through this place.

Gifting us with hope...

gifting us with courage...

gifting us with curiosity and creativity...

In the language of our hearts, may She speak to us.

In the language of our hearts, may She call to us,

In the language of our hearts, may She challenge us.

Into the hearts and lives and spaces of our community,

may She carry us –

that there we may burn brightly together!

Come, beloved, let us worship!

Hymn: *“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”*

VU #198

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

Like the first breeze of summer,

blowing in through the windows,

scattering papers and curtains, catching us off guard

Come, Holy Spirit! Awaken our wintering hearts!

Like a strong gust off the water, cool, crisp, and clean,

clearing our minds, filling our lungs, reminding us we are alive

Come, Holy Spirit! Bring life to your people again!

Like a whirlwind, disruptive, transforming, reshaping,

Come, Holy Spirit! Disrupt our despair!

Confound our complacency and blow us into your newness!

When we prefer to stay inside, send us out!

When we prefer to stay asleep, wake us up!

When we fumble with language, with difference, with action,

give us the words to speak of your goodness,

the courage to live out your goodness,

the energy to share in your goodness,

not only in here, with those that we know,

but everywhere, with everyone we meet...

Come, Holy Spirit! Blow through your church!

Bring life to your people again!

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

Words of Assurance

Choir Anthem: *“You Are The Song”* (P. Martin, C. Courtney)

Not a breath, and then a breeze; empty skies, then wings of peace.
Not a spark, and then a blaze; not a word, then songs of praise.
You are the wind, You are the fire,
You are the wings of peace, You are my soul’s desire.
You are the Spirit, Three-in-One; You are the words, You are the song.

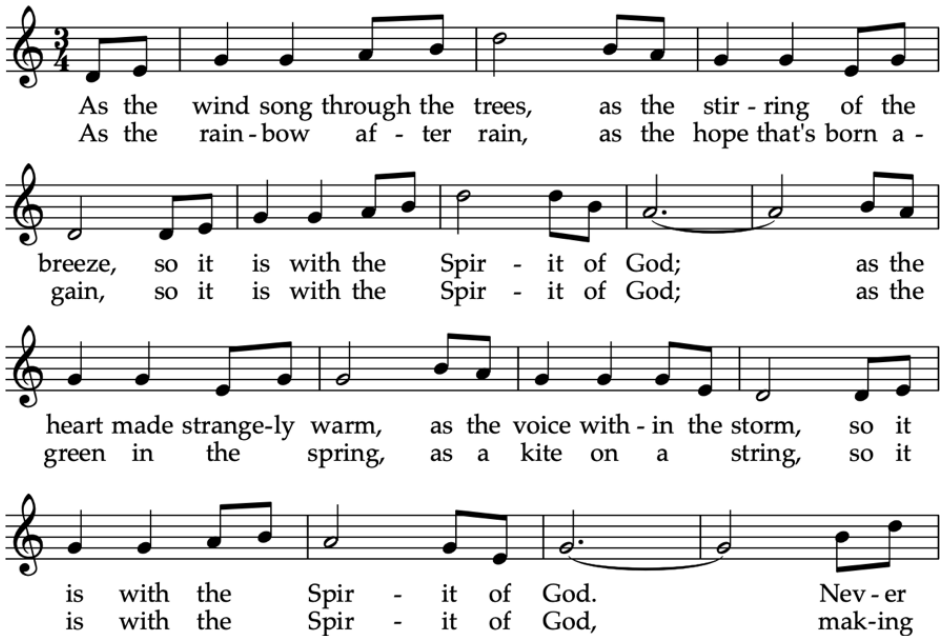
In the wind, Your song’s refrain; in the fire, Your dancing flame.
In the wings, Your rhythm flows to my heart, where Your song grows.

We Hear the Story of Pentecost: *A Wind at the Door*

Hymn: *“Dance with the Spirit”* **MV #156**

Sermon

Hymn: *“As the Wind Song through the Trees”*



As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the
As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a -
breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of God; as the
gain, so it is with the Spir - it of God; as the
heart made strange-ly warm, as the voice with - in the storm, so it
green in the spring, as a kite on a string, so it
is with the Spir - it of God. Nev - er
is with the Spir - it of God, mak - ing

(Cont'd next page)

seen, ev - er known where this wind has blown, bring-ing
 worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come true, bring-ing
 life, bring-ing pow'r to the world, as the dan-cing tongues of
 gifts, bring-ing love to the world; as the ris - ing of the
 fire, as the soul's most deep de - sire, so it
 yeast, as the wine of the feast, so it
 is with the Spir - it of God.
 is with the Spir - it of God.

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:

**Wind of Possibility, Spark of New Life,
 Breath of Hope, Blaze of Passion,
 Gather up our gifts into the crucible of your transformation.
 Fire them. Shape them.
 Breathe life into them,
 then carry them and us out into the world,
 that they and we might make a difference
 in the lives of our neighbours and community.
 Amen.**

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Hymn: *“She Comes Sailing on the Wind”*

VU #380

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with us here.

God is here among us.

Let’s open our hearts.

We open them to God and each other.

Let’s lift our voices in praise.

It is good to give God thanks and to praise.

God of round tables and square tables,
God of wooden tables and glass tables,
God of picnic tables and dining tables,
God of this table and every table...

Today, we join with our ancestors
and with people all around the world,
to eat, to share, to laugh, to learn,
and to remember this story of faith once again.

We remember and give thanks for the gift of your Spirit,
present since the very beginnings of the universe...

We remember and give thanks for your Spirit
that moves too within the human heart...

At times, we confess, we have been afraid and uncertain
of what your wild Spirit might do...

...Yet, still You pursue us with love.
Still you challenge us with grace.
Still you do not leave us alone.

And so, today, we remember and give thanks for your Spirit,
alive in the person of Jesus....

...so filled with the Holy Spirit was he
that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.

We remember too, your Spirit blowing through the crowded room at Pentecost, carrying your people out into the world...

...In ways familiar and ways unexpected,
in ways unpredictable and ways unimaginable,
your Spirit is at work, Living God.

Therefore, with our ancestors, and people all around the world,
in the language of our own hearts, and with the voices of all creation,
we speak our praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy are you, God of power and might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

As we gather at this feasting table, we remember
that on the night before he died, Jesus feasted with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you and for the world.
Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink. This is the cup of God’s promise,
poured out for you and for the world.
Whenever you drink together; remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love, shown to us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

Christ Has Died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Blessing of the Elements
Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of the Feast

Hymn During Communion: "For Everyone Born"



For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
For all who share life, a place at the ta - ble,
For those we ne - glect, a place at the ta - ble,
For all who have breath, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a cov - n - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
a rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - our,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head.
for all who share life, a sys - tem that's fair,
for those we ne - glect, the right to be - long,
for all who have breath, the chal - ice of grace,



And God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

(Cont'd next page)

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy.

5. For you and for me, a place at the ta-ble,
 though wound-ed and sore, with need to for-give,
 in an-ger, in hurt, a mind-set of mer-cy,
 for you and for me, a new way to live;
6. For ev-ery-one born, a place at the ta-ble,
 to live with-out fear, and sim-ply to be,
 to work, to speak out, to wit-ness and wor-ship,
 for ev-ery-one born, the right to be free;

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray
 Music: Brian Mann*

Prayer after Communion

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast.

May it be so.

Amen.

(Jan Richardson)

Closing Hymn: *“I Feel the Winds of God”*

VU #625

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Our retelling of the story of Pentecost today is taken from
“The Book of Belonging: Bible Stories for Kind & Contemplative Kids”
Written by Mariko Clark, and illustrated by Rachel Eleanor.
Used with gratitude and permission.*

"There's a Wild Hope in the Wind"

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the main text and the second and third columns containing alternative lines or responses. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

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.