



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
May 3rd, 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Thelma Blinn
Greeters: Janet Robertson & Jim Pittman

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)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Do not let your hearts be troubled, there is a place for you here.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, God is with us still.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, you are not alone.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, God is with us still.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, here you are welcomed home.

**In this sanctuary, in this shelter,
in this place and moment of rest,**

may you find strength.

may you find peace.

may you find grace.

may you find love.

May you find everything you need to carry you through
as we remind one another again:

Do not let your hearts be troubled, God is with us still.

Hymn: “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*”

VU #288

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

**Loving One, in times of uncertainty,
you are the ground that steadies us, the Spirit that connects us,
the heart that embraces us.**

**When nothing feels stable or secure,
the knowledge of your abiding presence
is our strength and our support.**

**Through the rhythm of our breath,
the support of our neighbours, the gift of every living thing,
help us to feel your presence again this week.**

**When life feels harsh, and the world feels hard,
ground us once more in you,
steady us once more in you.**

**Reach out to us and embrace us with your love,
that, rooted, we might bend and move with gentleness through this
world. This we ask, as we set down all that is hard and harsh within
us today and all that's in need of re-grounding...**

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

Words of Assurance

Hymn: *“Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New”* **MV #115**

Scripture Readings:

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sermon

Choir Anthem: *“Weave Us Together”* (Sam Hargreaves)

There's a tapestry you're weaving
from the tangle of our lives,
O God, bring us together.
When we feel our colours clashing
and the weave is wearing thin:
O Love, weave us together.

Weave us together,
O God, bring us together.

Cont'd next page

There's a song that you're composing
from the babble of our voice.

O God, bring us together.
Though our choir feels unsteady
you unite our joyful noise.
O Love, weave us together.

Weave us together,
O God, bring us together.

There's a story you are writing
from the fragments of our days,
O God, bring us together.
Every journey finds its meaning
as you work your saving grace,
O Love, weave us together.

Weave us together,
O God, bring us together.

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"Love Will Guide Us"*



Love_ will guide us, peace has tried us, hope in -
If you can - not sing like an - gels, if you



side us will lead the way on the road from greed to
can - not speak be - fore thou - sands, you can give from deep with



giv - ing. Love will guide us through the hard night.
in you. You can change the world with you love. *repeat vs. 1*

Words: Sally Rogers
Music: Trad., arr. Betty Wylder

Dedication of Our Gifts:

Living One, when we say, “we do not know the way,”
you respond – “feed the hungry.”

When we say, “we do not know the way,”
you respond – “care for all people.”

When we say, “we do not know the way.”
you point us time and again towards our neighbours
and towards our hurting world.

Take, then, our gifts we offer today and bless them,
that they too might point us towards the needs of our world,
and that, through them, we might continue to walk in your way.
Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer: “When Human Voices Cannot Sing”

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Trad., St. Columba



When hu - man voi - ces can - not sing and
Set free our spir - its from all fear, the
Make real for us your hold - ing love, the
And let the one we love now go where



hu - man hearts are break - ing, we
cloud of dark un - know - ing, and
love which is your mean - ing, the
we, in faith shall fol - low, to



bring our grief to you, O God who
let the light, the Christ - light show the
power to move the stone of death, the
trav - el in the Spir - it's peace, to



knows our in - ner ach - ing.
path - way of our go - ing.
hope of Eas - ter morn - ing.
make and end to sor - row.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: "Hidden Christ, Alive Forever"

Words: Brian Wren



Hid - den Christ a - live for - ev - er, sa - viour,
 Still your life and way of liv - ing, God - re -
 Who can tell, through earth - ly e - ons, all your
 Christ our hope, a - live a - mong us, take our



ser - vant, friend and Lord, year by year, un -
 veal - ing, Spi - rit - blown, teach - ing, heal - ing,
 lov - ing pow - er has done, chang - ing hearts and
 love, our work, our prayer. We will trust and



seen, you of - fer life un - dy - ing, love out - poured.
 sing for - giv - ing, mea - sure and in - spire our own;
 shap - ing na - tions, seek - ing all, re - ject - ing none?
 tell your pur - pose, brav - ing e - vil and des - pair;



Day by day, you walk a - mong us, known and hon - oured,
 lov - ing earth's de - spised, re - jec - ted, till with them you
 Speech - es fail, but songs soar high - er, trac - ing how, in
 in your name be - friend - ing, mend - ing, mak - ing peace and



yet con - cealed, free - ing, chi - ding, lead - ing,
 hang in pain, bro - ken, bur - ied, res - ur -
 ev - ery place, twice ten hun - dred years have
 set - ting free, show - ing, giv - ing and ac -



guid - ing, till your glo - ry is re - vealed.
 rec - ted, life laid down, our life to gain.
 num - bered count - less works of bound - less grace!
 claim - ing signs of joy and jub - i - lee.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Our prayer for renewal today is inspired by a prayer first written by
Rev. Molly Bolton and published on enfleshed.com.
Used with gratitude and permission.*

"There's A Wild Hope In The Wind"

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 7/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing three numbered lines. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.