



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
May 31st, 2026 – BNSRC Congregation Service

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
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VU: Voices United (red book)

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

Opening Hymn: “God Of The Bible”

MV #28

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As we prepare to light this candle, we are reminded that:

Lighting a candle is a prayer-

Inviting us to pause and be here: now.

Lighting a candle is a parable-

Burning itself out, it gives light to others.

Lighting a candle is a protest-

Saying to fear and hatred, ‘I beg to differ’.

Lighting a candle is a symbol-

of love and hope.

Sacred presence. Divine spark

Around and within.

Call to Worship:

Do not be afraid, for God is with us.

We trust the One who goes with us into the deep.

Jesus calls us to put out into the deep.

We go forward in faith and hope.

Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

With grateful hearts, we worship God.

Opening Prayer:

‘Listen to the silence
It has so much to say.’

- Rumi

We Prayerfully Pause ...Listening to the silence...

MV #77 *Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
based on Psalm 46*

**Living God, may we open our hearts to you,
moving beyond all that clutters our lives
and all that is waiting for our attention.**

**May your Spirit calm us amid the chaos,
and tune our ears to hear your voice above all else;
calling us to find our centre in you.**

**May your Spirit guide us in our busyness –
the expectations of community;
the needs of our world;
the necessary demands of ministry
help us to let them be for a while.
Move us deeper into your presence
where we can be fully attentive
to the wisdom of our faith tradition,
the stirrings of your Spirit,
the insights of others,
the gifts of this time and of each day.**

We Prayerfully Pause ...Moving into God's Presence...

MV #77 *Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

Story for All Ages

Hymn:

“Be Not Afraid”

Verse 1




1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain



Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways. Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2



2. If you pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand be-fore the

(Cont'd next page)

pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all. **D.S.**

Verse 3

3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the king-dom shall be
theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for
one day you shall laugh. And if wick-ed tongues in -
sult and hate you all be-cause of me,
bless-ed, bless-ed are you! **D.S.**

Text: Isaiah 43:2-3, Luke 6:20ff; Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943
Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943; acc. by Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992
© 1975, 1978, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings:

- 1st Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3
2nd Reading: Romans 8:38-39
3rd Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Hymn: "As The Deer Pants for the Water" (Psalm 42)

VU #766

Reflection: "Into the Deep"

Hymn: "Push Out Into The Deep" (Tune: Terra Beata)

"Push out in - to the deep!" the Mas - ter said that
For_ Je - sus i our guide; the_ source of jus - tice
4
day, And, at the catch, their_ heart would leap with
sure, If you, with him, in love a - bide, your
7
joy_ at love's dis - play. When emp - ti - ness is
work will long en - dure. Push out in - to the
10
near and_ vis - ion seems to fail, we
deep! Ex - pect a mir - a - cle! And
13
must not give in_ to our fear, but let God's love pre - vail.
Christ, your faith, will bless and keep; your min is - try ful - fill.

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Respond to God

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: "Grateful"

MV #182

Dedication of Our Gifts:

Generous and Loving God,

**we ask you to receive these gifts, and the gifts offered by PAR ,
gifts of our hearts and hands.**

May these gifts be used for ministry in your name.

Amen.

Choir:

“There Is More Love Somewhere”

(see insert)

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:

“We Have Been Called”

(see over)

We Go Forth to be God’s People

**Commissioning
Postlude**

“We Have Been Called”

$\text{♩} = 82$

1, 4 We have been called. We have been
 2 We have been held. We have been
 3 We have been sent. We have been

called to cel - e - brate our home here in love's wide em -
 held in ten - der care as we lay wound - ed by the
 sent and glad - ly go to stand where bor - ders must be

brace. To bear in mind. To bear in
 road. Re - ceiv - ing grace. Re - ceiv - ing
 crossed. To chal - lenge powers, to chal - lenge

mind all that we share; to join the song of
 heal - ing at the hands of stran - gers with the
 powers, to wel - come all, em - brac - ing love's full

love's good ways. Hal - le - lu - jah, we have been
 face of God. Hal - le - lu - jah, we have been
 joys and costs. Hal - le - lu - jah, we have been

called to join the song of love's good ways.
 healed by stran - gers with the face of God.
 sent em - brac - ing love's full joys and costs.

Words and music: Bret Hesla
 Accompaniment: Tom Witt

“There Is More Love Somewhere”



There is more love* some where. There is more love some-



where I'm gon-na keep on 'til I



find it. There is more love some - where.

**additional verses for hope, peace, and joy*

(arr. Adam and Matt Podd)

Thank you to the Worship & Music Committee for their leadership this morning.