

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
October 19th, 2025 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Joan Jobb

Greeters: Ivan & Sherrie Carey

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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

Gathering Music “Welcome Into This Place”

Wel - come in - to this place. Wel - come in - to this

bro - ken ves - sel. You de - sire to a-bide in the

prais-es of Your peo - ple, so we lift our hands and we

lift our hearts, as we of - fer up this praise un-to Your name.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Words & Music
Orlando Juarez

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer:

God of Jacob who blesses broken hips,

God of the widow who persists in the work of justice,

We are impatient for a world in which love flows freely,

hope is found in every heart,
and peace, like a rushing river,
washes away all inequality and harm.
We want to live in that world right now,
but, we know such a world as you and we dream of
emerges slowly –
painfully slowly sometimes, frustratingly slowly sometimes
So remind us as we gather today,
that you are with us in the struggle. You are with us on the way.
Bless our weary bones and energize our impatient hearts,
Encourage us with your Spirit of Joy,
that we might leave here renewed and ready
to speak out again, act out again for change, for hope,
and for that new world you dream of.
With gratitude for this holy work and the sacred struggle,
we gather in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: *"God Of The Bible"*

MV #28

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Prayer for Renewal:

Beloved God of All,
We often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace,
especially after absorbing the news each day.
We struggle to spread the Good News of your love and grace
after feeling the lack of mercy in our world.
We would rather be silent in places of comfort
instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality.
Our hearts can not bear knowing of any further wrongdoings.
Open, therefore, our souls to your healing.
Bless and refresh us, so that we might follow your light
even when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve.
In the name of the widow who would not give up, we pray. Amen.

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer Words of Assurance

Hymn: *"We Cannot Own The Sunlit Sky"*

MV #143

Scripture Readings:

First Testament:

Genesis 32:22-30

Gospel:

Luke 18:1-8

Sermon

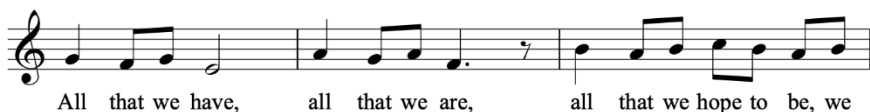
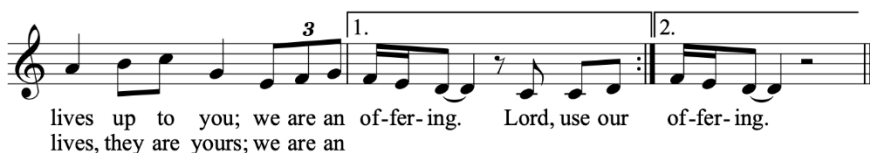
Hymn: *"Bring Many Names"*

VU #268

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"We Are An Offering"*



Dedication of Our Gifts:

**Resolute in heart, O God,
and encouraged by all who have struggled before us,
we refuse to give up on a world that is imperfect
yet alive with joy and flourishing.
And so, sharing what we have,
we pray that our simple gifts
might further your work of justice,
in meaningful and tangible ways
both here and around the world.
In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

Sung Invitation to Prayer

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

VU #400

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

VU #658

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Some of our prayers today were adapted from those first written by
Rev. Michelle Torigian and M. Kaiser. Used with gratitude and permission.*