

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
October 26th, 2025 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Jim Houghton

Greeters: Tom Ritcey

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 “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 4/4 time. The melody is simple and welcoming, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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.'

Words & Music
Orlando Juarez

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer:

**Our lives are so full, Loving Christ,
and our hearts are so stretched because of it.
There is so very much that demands our time,**

our energy, our focus that, often, it can be overwhelming.
Often it can be exhausting. Sometimes even confusing.
And so, in the midst of the fullness of life,
let us rest here together for a while.
Focused not on having all the right answers,
or making all the right choices,
or solving all the world's problems,
but simply focused on you.
Your love for us.
Your presence with us.
Your Spirit alive in us.
May that love, that presence, that Spirit,
nurture and carry us back into the world.
to be people of love and Spirit and presence ourselves.
Amen.

Hymn: *"Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace"*

VU #684

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Prayer for Renewal:

Oh, how we like to compare and contrast, Holy One:
us versus them, right versus wrong, liberal versus conservative.
Oh, how often we view our world and each other
according to our differences, rather than what unites us.
Forgive us when we fall into this temptation, and help us
to be people concerned not with comparisons, but with justice.
not quick to pick sides, but quick to pick love.
not eager to lift up our own voices,
but the voices of those
who are most vulnerable in our community.
Help us, O Christ, to see our shared humanity
beneath the false divisions we create
that together we might further your vision
of abundance and flourishing life for all.
Amen.

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer
Words of Assurance

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

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.

A Mission and Service Story

(shared by Anne Tipler)

Scripture Readings:

Gospel:

Luke 18:9-14

Anthem: “*Consecration*”

(F. Chatfield)

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Sermon

Hymn: *“Though Ancient Walls”*

VU #691

(vs 1,2,Refrain, vs3,4, Refrain, Vs5, Refrain)

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: “We Are An Offering”

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our
voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives up to you; we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our of-fer-ing.
lives, they are yours; we are an

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our

hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an

of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Dedication of Our Gifts:

Through the sharing of our gifts and the living of our lives,
we seek to participate in the work of the Spirit,
which is the work of justice, of mercy and love.

Bless these gifts and us, O God,

that we and all we offer might continue to make a real
difference in the lives of our community and our world.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

VU #400

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer – Jamie Brown (*sung together*)

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: *“Deep In Our Hearts”*

MV #154

Commissioning and Benediction
Postlude

BACK “WORDS” #11 by Brian Jobb

1985 – A Story Worth Telling – The Big Reveal

Nineteen Eighty-Five was the year that Central United Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary with the theme, A Story Worth Telling. Early in 1986 the Organizing committees’ final act was the assembling of a time capsule to be opened in 2035, 50 years later. Since this is the 40th year of the time capsule, I have been advocating (with the blessing of the Minister, the Board and Music and Worship) for its opening while those of us who remember 1985 are still present.

Our Anniversary Service will be Sunday, November 16, 2025 with a Pot Luck afterwards. Our plan is to unseal the time capsule at the Pot Luck. One item in the capsule is the 1985 Church Directory which was published as a project of the Anniversary Year. How do we know? We have a picture of the late Jack Powers, the late Jane Gibson, Thelma Blinn, and Rev. Don MacPherson taken just before the sealing of the capsule with the Church Directory appearing in capsule in the picture.

Beyond that, who knows?