



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
October 4th, 2026 – 4th Sunday in the Season of Creation

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Rachel Bailey
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: “Like a Healing Stream” **MV #144**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

To dry and parched landscapes and souls,
water brings the gift of new life.

To tired and world-weary disciples and communities,
water brings the gift of new life.

When all hope is lost, and life is a mess,
water brings the gift of new life.

A sign of compassion, a sign of refreshment,
a sign of love and healing and grace –

Water brings the gift of new life.

Come, all you who thirst, all you who are tired,
all you who long for renewal and for hope.

Step into the river of the Waters of Life
that they might bring you the gift of new life.

We step into the water and join in creation’s healing.

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:

Rivers run polluted.

Oceans choke with plastic.

Marine life disappears from warming seas.

Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

Yet, still there is hope for healing.

The seas rise and swallow coasts.

Storms grow stronger. Floods destroy homes.

Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

Yet still there is hope for healing.

We have not protected your waters.

We have consumed without restraint.

We have polluted what you called good.

Yet still there is hope for healing.

Come, Healing Waters, and renew the face of the earth.

Transform our hearts and minds

through this act of confession and lament,

that just as tears bring healing to our bodies,

so too we might be moved to bring healing to all of creation.

In the name of the One who promises that all can be made new...

Amen.

Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

Water has a great capacity to heal itself. To renew itself,

But, in this age of climate crisis, it needs our help too.

*Where have you seen water in need of healing,
and how might you help to heal the waters of our home?*

Words of Assurance

Hymn:

"Living Waters"

Refrain



God our cre-a-tor Spi - rit mov-ing Liv ing wa-ters Love ov er flows



— From the sa - cred heart of the moun - tains
Your chil - dren, O Lord are long - ing you
Give us ears to hear the cry of the earth And the



Down and spread through the streams Then
Reach - ing out from the deep We
cry of your peo - ple, Lord



life springs out Prais - ing you loud
plead to you Our hearts thirst for you
strength-then our faith As we work in your grace

To refrain

Scripture Reading:

First Reading:

Ezekiel 47:9-12

Second Reading:

Revelation 22:1-7

Hymn:

"Rain Down"

Refrain

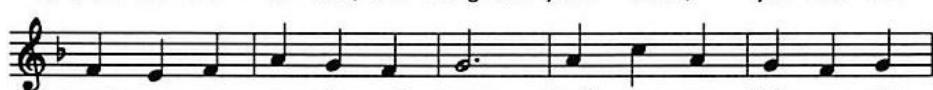


...Cont'd

Verses



1. Faith-ful and true is the word of our God. All of God's
2. We who re - vere and find hope in our God live in the
3. God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the



1. works are so wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the
2. kind - ness and joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from
3. wa - ter of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your



1. just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.
2. dark - ness and death; God will not leave us to starve.
3. peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

to Refrain

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Sermon

Hymn: "God Is A River" (video; lyrics on back page)

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: "Called by Earth and Sky" (refrain & vs.1)MV #135

Dedication of Our Gifts:

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep:

We thank you for the gift of water —

the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth,

the waters above us, and within us.

Through these gifts we offer today,

enable us to be active participants

in the care and healing of all the world's waters,

that they might continue to sustain life for us

and all who come after us. Amen.

Blessing of the Waters

Over the ancient waters of creation,
the Holy Spirit hovered, bringing life to all that lives.
**Thanks be to God for the life-giving power
of water in our lives.**

Through the waters of the Reed Sea,
Moses led our ancestors of faith to freedom.
**Thanks be to God for the liberating power
of water in our lives.**

In the waters of the Jordan,
Jesus was baptized, a sign of healing and new life.
Thanks be to God for the renewing power of water in our lives.

By the waters of our home, we now gather,
to honour and give thanks for the gift of water in our lives.

Flowing in oceans, and rivers, lakes and streams,
through taps and pipes and our very bodies,
Water enlivens our hearts, our spirits, our community.
Falling as rain, hardening into ice, hemming us in as mist and fog,
Water nourishes our hearts, our spirits, our community.
Released as sweat, as tears, as evaporation,
Water heals our hearts, our spirits, our community.

By the waters of the Front and Back Harbour,
we have been shaped and we have been sustained.
By the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the LaHave River,
we have been comforted and we have been held.
By the waters of Mahone Bay and Chester Basin,
we have been nurtured and we have been healed.
By the waters of Dares Lake and Prince's Inlet,
we have been refreshed and we have been strengthened.
By the waters of the Mersey River and the Gulf of St Lawrence,
we have found joy and renewal, rest and new life.

By these and all the waters of creation,
we have been cared for and we have been blessed.

**Therefore, we seek now a blessing on these waters of our home,
that they might continue to be a source of life, a source of joy,
a source of freedom and renewal for all who encounter them.**

**May healing come to the waters that are hurting.
May replenishment come to the waters that are dwindling.
May protection come to the waters that are vulnerable.
May new life come to the waters that are warming.
May peace come to the waters that are rising.
And may we who seek this blessing,
who receive this gift of sacred water,
be agents of such healing, protection, peace and new life,
in the name of the One who calls us to care for creation,
Amen.**

The Waters Are Blessed

All are Invited to Come Forward and Receive this Gift of Living Water.

Closing Hymn: *"I See a New Heaven"* VU #713

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Many of our prayers today are either taken from or inspired by materials created by the International Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee. www.seasonofcreation.org
Used with gratitude and permission.*

“God is a River”

~Peter Mayer

In the ever-shifting water of the river of this life
I was swimming, seeking comfort; I was wrestling waves to find
A boulder I could cling to, a stone to hold me fast
Where I might let the fretful water of this river 'round me pass

And so I found an anchor, a blessed resting place
A trusty rock I called my savior, for there I would be safe
From the river and its dangers, and I proclaimed my rock divine
And I prayed to it "protect me" and the rock replied

God is a river, not just a stone
God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer
So let go

Still I clung to my rock tightly with conviction in my arms
Never looking at the stream to keep my mind from thoughts of harm
But the river kept on coming, kept on tugging at my legs
Till at last my fingers faltered, and I was swept away

So I'm going with the flow now, these relentless twists and bends
Acclimating to the motion, and a sense of being led
And this river's like my body now, it carries me along
Through the ever-changing scenes and by the rocks that sing this song

God is a river, not just a stone
God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer
So let go

God is the river, swimmer
So let go

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 4th, 2026

Please send your announcements to the church office by Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Wednesday, October 7th: Choir practice at 6:30pm
 - Thursday, October 8th: Handbell practice at 10:00am
 - Thursday, October 8th: Stewards meeting at 7:00pm in Fellowship room
 - Wednesday, October 14th: Soup Luncheon 11:30am-1:00pm
 - Thursday, October 15th: Community Drop-In from 10:00am-12:00pm
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Calling all gardeners and plant-lovers! Come help us prepare the Central United garden for the winter! Bring a pair of gloves, a trowel, a bucket, kneepads and any other tools you might want, and help us weed, relocate some plants and tidy up our Lincoln St. garden before the snow falls. All ages and abilities welcome! Tuesday, October 20th: 9:30am – stay for an hour, or the whole morning. Hope to see you there!

Fire Prevention Week: We offer a warm welcome to the members of Lunenburg & District Fire Department joining us this morning. There will be an Open House at the fire station (25 Medway St.) on Thursday, October 8th beginning at 6:30pm. All are welcome to stop by!

Worship Survey: The Worship and Music Committee at Central has been having discussions around our Sunday morning worship service and what “worship” means to us. We would appreciate your thoughtful answers to a few questions. The survey can be filled out online via the link found on the church website (centralunitedlunenburg.ca). For those who prefer a paper copy to fill out, printed copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the completed surveys by October 11th!

A Note to our Knitters/Crocheters: If you are looking for a project to keep your hands active, our friends at The Journey Room (Oncology Dept at SSRH) and Palliative Care Services are always looking for lap blankets. Remember, blanket sizes typically range from 32” to 48” (81-122 cm) wide by 35” to 40” (89-102 cm) in length. As we have done the last couple of years, we will collect the blankets later on in the fall and make our deliveries!

During the **Season of Creation**, we are invited to immerse ourselves in the **Living Waters** of our home, that we might reconnect with them, learn from them, and help to heal them. To symbolize this, we have collected a selection of waters from our home here in Lunenburg and placed them on the communion table. We invite you to explore this display in the coming weeks. You are also invited to add to it, by bringing in a sample of water from your own home. It could be just from your tap, or perhaps your favourite beach or creek or stream, or somewhere else near to where you live. Please include a note of where it came from, so we can share it with others. Then, at the end of the season, we will be blending and blessing these waters, and you will be gifted some to take home, as a reminder of the importance of water and our relationship to it.

The Worship & Music Team has created a table at the back of the sanctuary with resources, prayers, reading recommendations and more, to accompany us throughout the **Season of Creation**. We invite you to explore, and to take anything home that you wish.

Soup & Chowder Luncheons are returning! Our next one will be on October 14th, from 11:30am-1:00pm. Sign-up sheets for donations & volunteering can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

Join the Beyond Band-aids initiative and the 644 Revitalization Network for a special event to mark the **United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. On Saturday, October 17th at the Anglican Hall, 5311 Hwy 10, New Germany. From 9:00am-10:30am, drop in to help the 644 with their community cook; from 10:30-11:30am is the official event; from 11:30am food, music and community connection. An event focused on poverty and how we can create change together.

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Rev. Daniel is at the church Tuesdays from 10-2pm or by appointment

Carrol Heinsma (office): 902-634-4035, centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
~ Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm
CentralUnitedLunenburg.ca