



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

September 20th, 2026 – 2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

Lay Reader: Carolyn Tanner

Greeters: Sherrie & Ivan Carey

Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com

Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca

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: “There’s A River”

There's a ri - ver__ flow-ing in my *soul, there's a

ri - ver__ flow-ing in my soul, and it's tel - ling_ me__ I am

some-bo - dy,__ there's a ri - ver__ flow-ing in my soul.

**soul, mind, heart*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

The land holds us.

Sky breathes in us.

Trees stand around us like ancestors.

Birds sing to us like friends.

Rivers flow with tears of joy.

Living beings feed us and walk with us.

In the end the earth receives us.

Creation is God's love poured out;

we receive it with joy, care for it with gratitude,

and in unity with all Creation we worship God.

Come, let us worship at the water's edge.

Hymn:

"For the Music of Creation"

VU #535

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

September is often such a busy time, Loving One.

After the renewing rest of summer,

our schedules and days fill up once again

with all the many commitments and demands of daily living,

and before we know it, we are rushing through at breakneck speed.

In this season of busyness and beginning again,

let not our lives get so full that we fail to listen

for the wisdom and the needs of creation all around us.

Slow us down enough to notice:

The symphony of sandflies and crickets,

the whispering of grasses and the rustling of leaves,

the rhythm of the waves, and the hum of the earth.

Help us to sink beneath the surface of the everyday

and rediscover the intricate web of life

that exists all around us.

Listening deeply, may our spirits begin to heal.

Listening honestly,

may we respond to the needs of our fellow living things.

Listening prayerfully,

may we encounter you in every creature, every sound.

Then, shaped by all that we hear,

all that we notice and encounter,

help us to rise refreshed, renewed and recommitted

to care for and protect this beautiful gift of life.

Amen.

Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

*Settle into this moment of silence,
opening your hearts and ears to the sounds of life all around you.
What do you hear? What do you notice?
What might you hear if you were outside?
How might listening deeply change the way you care for creation?*

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_____ *To refrain*
plead to you Our hearts thirst for you_____
strengthen our faith As we work in your grace_____

Written by Marjorie Engcoy, James Trewby, Catherine Bridgwood,
Kurt Zion Pala, SSC, Pat Michael Visanti, SSC, Aung Li (Columban Missionaries)

Scripture Reading:

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:9-12

Second Reading: Acts 17:22-28

Sermon

Hymn:

“Wind Upon the Waters”

Marty Haugen



Wind up - on the wa - ters, voice up - on the deep;
Show - ers from the wa - ter wa - ter from the earth;
Rock and hill and gar - den, wood and de - sert sand;
Bla - zing light of won - der, flame that pier - ces night;
Wind up - on the wa - ters, rains up - on the sand,



rouse your sons and daugh - ters, wake us from_ our sleep.
Gift so whol - ly giv - en, source of ev - er - y birth.
Prai - rie, field and mea - dow, shaped by Love's own hand.
Burst the dark a - sun - der, fill our souls_ with light.
Grace your sons and daugh - ters, new-born by__ your hand.



Breath-ing life in - to all flesh, breath-ing love in - to all
Joy of ev - 'ry liv-ing thing, mak-ing all cre - a - tion
Love that fills the world a - round, spring-ing up from bar - ren
Lord of glo - ry, fill the skies, make an end to ha - tred's
Come, O Spi - rit and re - new all the life that comes from



hearts, Li - ving wind up - on the wa - ters of__ my soul.
sing, Show - er down up - on the dry earth of__ my soul.
ground, Grow your love with-in the gar - den of__ my soul.
cries, Be the bla - zing Sun of jus - tice in__ our lives.
you, Send your winds up - on the wa - ters of__ my soul.

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:

**For the warmth of the sun on our faces,
we offer up our gift of thanks.**

**For the breezes as they blow through the trees and the reeds,
we offer up our gift of thanks.**

**For the ebb of the tides, and the roll of the waves,
carrying nutrients and oxygen across the face of our world,
we offer up our gift of thanks.**

**For all creatures great and small, who live at the water’s edge,
buried in the sand, swimming in salt marshes,
soaring through the skies, diving in the deep,
we offer up our gift of thanks.**

**Receive our gifts today, O God, that they might be used
to cherish and protect this delicate, web of life we share,
and help all creation to flourish.**

Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer

“Water Flowing from the Mountains” (vs.1) **MV #87**

Water flowing from the mountains.

Water flowing o’er the earth.

Water comes to us, so precious.

Living water gives us birth.

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

For living water sings, and living water brings

The love that makes our spirit grow.

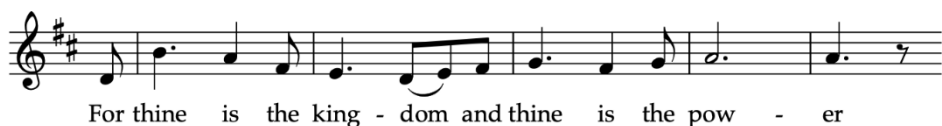
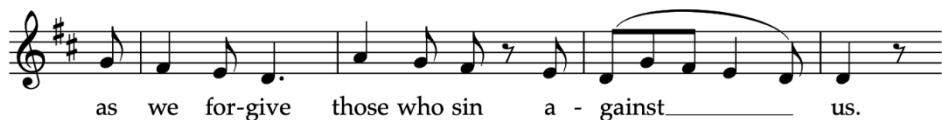
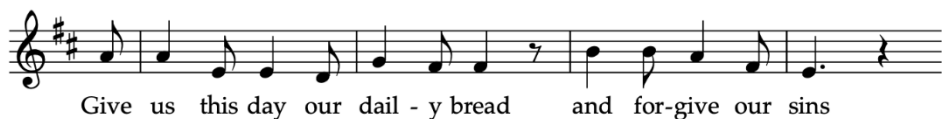
Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer



Cre - a - tor in heav - en hal-lowed be thy name;
(Our Fa - ther)

Cont'd



Closing Hymn: "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Our call to worship today was originally written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes. Used with gratitude and permission.



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 20th, 2026

Please send your announcements to the church office by Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Tuesday, September 22nd: Board Meeting at 7:00pm
 - Wednesday, September 23rd: Choir practice at 6:30pm
 - Saturday, October 3rd: Men's Supper at 6:00pm in the hall
 - Tuesday, October 5th: Stewards meeting at 7:00pm in Fellowship room
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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.

Wear Orange Next Sunday, Sept. 27th! As the closest Sunday to Orange Shirt Day, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we are inviting everyone to wear orange on Sunday, Sept. 27th, as a way to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions, many of whom never made it home alive. Inspired by the experience of Phyllis Webstad, the orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation and commitment to a better future. By wearing an orange shirt, you make a statement to support truth and reconciliation and commit to the enduring truth that "every child matters." To learn more about the history of Orange Shirt Day, and to hear Phyllis's story, visit www.orangeshirtday.org

Benevolent Fund: On the last Sunday of the month, we invite folks to bring in donations for our Benevolent Fund and place them in the red offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. This fund is used to support urgent and emerging needs in our community, such as assisting people with paying bills, buying groceries, and more. Donations of \$5 or more receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. Thank you to all who are able to support this important ministry!

Thursday morning Handbells: Practices will resume on Thursday, October 8th at 10:00am. New ringers are always welcome! Looking forward to making music together!

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.

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!

Broadview 3-Part Webinar Series: In a follow-up to the Broadview “Small Churches” issue, Rev. Christopher White will lead a three-part online series about ‘what comes next for your congregation’ on Tuesdays at 8pm AST on September 22, 29, and October 6th. Registration information can be found in a related email from the church office.

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.

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