



Image courtesy of [Lenten Prayer Resource](#)

Our Vision Statement

“Deepening and demonstrating our faith in Jesus Christ by partnering in and with the community of Central Saanich and beyond.”

CENTRAL SAANICH UNITED CHURCH

Worship: Rev. Bob Gilbert

Music Director: Amy Nold

Secretary: Tara Houle

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays

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 Central Saanich United Church

 Central Saanich United Church Online Worship

Central Saanich United Church
United Church of Canada
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023

Scripture Reader: Steve Howell

Greeters: Steve Howell & Helen Wright

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome, Celebrations, Announcements.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: **When We Seek Language**

MV 49

Call To Worship:

More than those who watch for the morning,

we wait faithfully for God.

With our questions and our cries, in our hopes and expectations,

we wait faithfully for God.

Come, let us worship the Lord our God together,

and offer our prayers and praise in faithfulness.

(from The Presbyterian Church in Canada – Worship Planner- March 26, 2023)

We pray....

Gracious God, in this time of worship, and always, enter our lives.

Refresh and renew us.

Grant that we might live with love as we commit to following
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Breathe your life on us, that we might be energized
and encouraged.**

Unbind us and set us free.

Amen.

(adapted from Word & Witness, Vol. 2:2 – Year A, March 17, 2002, p.78)

Children's Time

Ring the Tone Bell (invitation to a moment of quiet)

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music

From our Scriptures: John 11:1-45

Lenten Candle Liturgy: (*based on John 11:1-45*)

O Jesus, you wept over your friend Lazarus.

Do you still weep for us?

Do you weep when forest fires rage, when homes are burnt, animals die, and the smoke blows? Do you weep as floods destroy homes and livelihoods?

Do you weep for those suffering from illness and for their families?

Do you weep for those who live with a myriad of worries, anxiety, and depression?

Do you weep for injustice, for those who experience ongoing racism, bullying, and discrimination of all sorts?

Do you weep for those who have no more tears to shed, who have no more prayers to say, who have no more dreams to dream?

Then we are willing to shed our tears with you. We shed tears for the world you love.

(the fifth candle is extinguished)

Prayer:

Hymn: **Don't Be Afraid** (*remain seated*)

MV 90

(adapted from a UCC resource by Won Hur in Gathering, Lent 2023 (Year A), p. 67-68)

Sermon: "Unbinding Love"

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: **What Calls Me from the Death** **MV 93**

Offering

Invitation

What Can I Do? **MV 191**

Dedication of the Gifts

We pray...

Hymn: **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** **VU 400**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **In the Bulb There Is A Flower** **VU 703**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Come out! Jesus commands,

**And calls us from the tombs of our existence
into the brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,

And unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls,

And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.

So: Go out!

Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Go out!

**Into a world that needs the Spirit of God,
carried on our lips and in our loving arms.**

Go out!

Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

So may the tears of the Lord Jesus wash over your sorrow,

the Spirit of God dwell in your hearts,

and God's promise of new life lead you through each day ahead.

Amen.

(from Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and from the Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planner – Lent 5 – 2023)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Trustees**, Sunday, March 26 after Worship
- **Worship Committee**, Thursday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.
- **Book Study**, Saturday, April 1, 10:30-12
- **Council Executive**, Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.

UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday - April 2, 10: 15 a.m.

Daily Holy Week Services in the Sanctuary;

Monday to Thursday and Saturday, 11-11:30 a.m.

Good Friday - April 7, 10: 15 a.m.

Easter Sunday - April 9

Sunrise Service - Island View Beach

Church Service - 10:15 a.m.

*Please refer to our website for Upcoming Events in our
Community*

www.centralesaanichunited.ca

OR

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 Central Saanich United Church Online Worship