



Image courtesy of <https://www.biblword.net/what-does-it-mean-to-be-born-of-water-and-spirit/>

### **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***  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 5, 2023**

**Scripture Reader:** Bhree Young-Merry & Anthony Merry

**Greeters:** Bhree Young-Merry & Anthony Merry

**WE GATHER**

Prelude

Welcome, Celebrations, Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: **New Every Morning**

**VU 405 (v.1-4)**

Opening Words....

Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,  
**and God's truth opens our eyes.**

Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ.  
**and God's love brings healing and hope.**

Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,  
**and God's people are born from above.**

We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.  
**Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.**

*(from The Presbyterian Church in Canada – Worship Planner – March 5, 2023)*

We pray....

God of all our journeys, you call us from our places of bondage.

**You lead us from the old to the new.**

You open our eyes to see things in fresh ways and open our minds to your wisdom.

**You guide us to new understandings that restore and refresh.**

In this Lenten season, we pray that you will give us strength for the journey,  
**new hearts to discover your promises,**  
and a vision to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

**We worship you now, O God, open to your transformative presence.**  
**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Children's Time

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

## WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music

From our Scriptures: John 3:1-17

From the World Around Us: "Wisdom Far Beyond" (*by Colin Gibson*)

Lenten Candle Liturgy (*based on John 3:1-17*)

Often we live unaware of the spiritual realities around us.

**We fail to grasp the reality of God's presence in our world.**

Like Nicodemus, we have difficulty finding the kingdom of God.

**We can end up muddling through life, suffering the consequences of our lack of attentiveness.**

So, we bear the impact of climate change in the pursuit of economic gains.

**We live with enormous amounts of plastic waste in the name of convenience.**

We live with micro-aggressions and systemic racism.

**We mourn our ignorance and underdeveloped religious beliefs.**

*(the second candle is extinguished)*

Prayer

Hymn: **Don't Be Afraid**

**MV 90**

*(adapted from a UCC resource by Won Hur in Gathering, Lent 2023 (Year A), p. 66)*

Sermon:

"Born of the Spirit"

## **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

Hymn: **Holy Spirit, You're Like the Wind**

**MV 5**

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: **I Feel the Winds of God**

**VU 625**

Commissioning and Benediction:

As we continue our Lenten journey, recall the words of the Psalmist:

**"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more."**

So go forth, trusting that your help comes from God.

God's presence strengthen you,

Jesus' faithfulness guide you,

and the wind of the Spirit bring you energy to serve with love.

**Amen.**

*(from The Presbyterian Church in Canada – Worship Planner, March 5, 2023)*

Going Forth: **May the Peace of God Be Your Peace**

**MV 222**

Postlude

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Annual General Meeting, TODAY**, after Worship

**Study on the Wisdom Jesus**, Saturday, March 4 and continuing weekly until Saturday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

**Pastoral Committee**, Thursday, March 9, 1 p.m.

**Full Council Committee**, Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.

### **Worship:**

- March 12 — 3rd Sunday in Lent & PIE Day, with pie during Fellowship.

We raised \$2,920 (97% of our goal of \$3,000) in support of the "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraising walk with proceeds to go to 'Our Place' which serves the vulnerable poor in Victoria and surrounding areas providing shelter, food, clothing, programs of support, education, and training, and a safe place to be 'in community' with others.

Congratulations and thanks to those who walked and to all who supported our walkers with generous donations!! A great outcome for a worthy cause!!

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

[www.centalsaanichunited.ca](http://www.centalsaanichunited.ca)

OR

*follow us*

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 **Central Saanich United Church Online Worship**