



Image courtesy of <https://anunslife.org/lent/2023-service>

### **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***  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 19, 2023**

**Scripture Reader:** Bill Cole & Nancy Jacobsen

**Greeters:** Roberta Gault & Helen Wright

**WE GATHER**

Prelude

Welcome, Celebrations, Announcements.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: **As Comes The Breath of Spring**

**VU 373**

Call To Worship:

In the quiet places of our lives,

**God speaks a word of welcome.**

In the fragmented places of our lives,

**God gathers the shards and unites them in one.**

In the frayed places of our lives,

**God weaves a story that sharpens meaning.**

In the reluctant places of our lives,

**God nudges us into the spotlight of God's grace.**

Let us worship our wondrous God with gratitude and praise.

*(Preaching – Word & Witness, Vol. 08:2 (Year A), March 2, 2008, p. 20, adapted)*

We pray....

Loving God, we have come here today to hear your word  
and let it change us.

**We have come to be refreshed by your presence and reminded  
that we are never far from you.**

Open our hearts to receive you, and to reach out to others in love.

**We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

*(Prayers for Sunday March 22nd, 2020 Lent 4A NEW TESTAMENT ...*

*<https://beaumarisunitingchurch.org.au> › 2020/04)*

## Children's Time

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

### WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music

From our Scriptures: John 9:1-3, 6-41

Lenten Candle Liturgy: *(based on John 9:1-41)*

Though we yearn for great vision, many of our visions are limited.

**Yet, we do not know just how limited we may be, spiritually.**

Often we do not know that we do not know.

**Content to live with illusions and self-delusions, many people of this world do not even want to know wisdom and truth.**

As the prophet Joel said, when the leaders lack vision,  
it is the people who suffer.

**We do suffer when we are led by narrow leadership,  
compromised integrity, and self-centred values.**

We experience the suffering of God's people on our streets,  
In shantytowns, in refugee camps, and in every neighbourhood.  
*(the fourth candle is extinguished).*

Prayer

Hymn: **Don't Be Afraid**

**MV 90**

*(adapted from a UCC resource by Won Hur in Gathering, Lent 2023), p. 67)*

Sermon: "Theologizing Tragedy"

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: **Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**VU 371**

Offering

Invitation

**What Can I Do?**

**MV 191**

Dedication

We pray...

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

**VU 400**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **Amazing Grace**

**VU 266**

Commissioning and Benediction:

In the power of the Holy Spirit we now  
go forth into the world.

**We go to fulfil our calling as the people  
of God, the body of Christ.**

Go in peace, and may God be in your head and in your  
understanding, in your eyes and in your looking, in your mouth  
and in your speaking, in your heart and in your thinking - now  
and forevermore.

**Amen**

*(by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild - Spirit Networks, 1999 – 2006)*

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

**MV 222**

Postlude

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Book Study**, Saturday, March 25 & April 1, 10:30-12
- **Conscious Aging**, Thursday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. This session will be here at Central Saanich United.
- **Trustees**, Sunday, March 26 after Worship
- **Worship Committee**, Thursday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.
- **Council Executive**, Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.

## UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

### **H**oly 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.

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

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

OR

*follow us*

 *Central Saanich United Church*

 Central Saanich United Church Online Worship