

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
March 26, 2023 – 10:30 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Central Queens' Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people, celebrating joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

Gathering for Worship

Lenten Introit Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery VU #121 vs 5

Lenten Candle Liturgy

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we move ever closer to Good Friday and Jesus' suffering and death. Yet in the midst of the darkness of Lent, we hear words of hope. The scriptures remind us that God will not abandon us even when we are close to despair. God will make a way for us in the wilderness. God promises us water in the desert and flowers in dry land. Jesus trusted in God's abundance and calls each one of us to live generous lives. We are challenged to let go of our fears so that we can become part of the pouring forth of blessing in our world. Let us pray:

Loving God, You call us from darkness and despair to life and hope. Help us be open to the possibility of new life which can spring forth from the darkness of the old. Amen.

Welcome to the Church

Announcements/Celebrations

Bible Brought Forward

Call to Worship

From the tombs of winter hibernation,
we emerge to worship God.

From the isolation caused by snowbanks and cold
we find God's warmth in this place.

Call to Worship (Continued)

Let us worship the God of life.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Creating God, still centre of the world you have made, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our source and our destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you, we turn toward you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. Amen.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

***Hymn** Oh a Song Must Rise MV #142

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Children may retire to Sunday School

Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing Psalm 130 VU #853

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God has compassion for our fears and failures; God stays with us on our Lenten journey. We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

***Hymn** Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart VU #378

Listening for Truth

Prayer of Preparation (John Beyea)

God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey; help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change and growth that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

Anthem "O God, I Know Not What To Ask of You"

Sermon

Silent Reflection

Responding to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

***Doxology** VU #543 vs 1

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of New Life, all around us are reminders of your covenant with creation. Our gifts represent our commitment to your way of wholeness. Use these offerings to quench thirsty souls, shower your earth with blessings, and transform hungry hearts. This we give in thankfulness and praise. **Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Kirk: Can these bones live?

Response: You know, O God.

Closing Hymn In The Bulb There Is a Flower Vu #703

***Commissioning**

We have celebrated the past, for God has been there to guide us. We have been renewed in the present, for Christ has been here in our midst. We shall be encouraged into the future, for the Spirit continues to blow among us, giving us peace, hope, faith and love as we seek to be people of the Way. Go, and know that you care through all that you share. Give, responding to the ways that God has generously given to each one of you, and be thankful.

Amen.

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

God of the wilderness, be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives. Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions and walk with us as we learn to live the life abundant.

Amen.

***Choral Amen**

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

Ministers All of us
Clergy **Rev Greg Davis**
Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 am – 12 pm
Office Phone 902-964-2291
Email minister@cquc.ca

Ministry of Music **Kirk Neville**
Website <https://cquc.ca/index.htm>
Phone 902-786-9222
Email nevillejk@hotmail.com

Church Office

Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
9 am – 12 pm
Phone 902-964-2221
Email office@cquc.ca

A Warm Welcome to All – We are delighted you have joined us. May God's word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. All are welcome.

Thank You – The congregation of Central Queens United Church would like to thank Kirk Neville for leading our worship service this morning.

Today's Bulletins are placed in loving memory of Mary Smith. Lovingly remembered by Gordon, Margaret and Family.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Service – April 6 at **7 pm (Please note change in time)**

Good Friday Taizé Service – April 7 at 10:30 am

Easter Sunrise Service – April 9 at 6:30 am (outside, weather permitting)

Easter Service with Communion – April 9 at 10:30 am

Life and Work of Our Church

Greg's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 am – 12 pm. If anyone is in the hospital or would like a visit from Greg, please call him at 902-964-2291. If you wish to meet with Greg outside the scheduled hours, please call 902-964-2291 or email minister@cquc.ca for an appointment.

In-Church Services: Masks are recommended but not required.

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, April 2nd. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

FündScrip

Confirmation Classes – Anyone who is 14 years or older who is interested in confirmation classes, please contact Greg at 902-964-2291 or by email at minister@cquc.ca.

E-Transfers – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept E-Transfers. If you prefer to give your offerings through E-Transfer, please send via email to veldabertram@gmail.com.

Camp Abby Annual Meeting will be tomorrow, March 27th, at North Bedeque United Church beginning at 6 pm. A representative from each congregation is requested to attend.

Sunday Worship Cancellations – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made by radio on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page if our church service is cancelled.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off any Sunday or during church office hours in the wooden box at the church entrance.

Weekly Bulletins can be sponsored by you in celebration or remembrance of a loved one. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00.

Bulletin Deadline – Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday** evening. Bulletin items can be emailed to office@cquc.ca.

Scent-Free – “No scents make good sense”

Please refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and fragrant personal care products as they can trigger serious health issues for those with fragrance allergies. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

Pop Can Pull Tabs – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collecting pop can pull tabs which are then given to the Daughters of the Nile women's organization. The funds go to the Shriners Hospital in Montreal where they are used to buy reading materials for children in the hospital. Your pull tab collections can be dropped off at the church. Thank you.

Central Queens Emmaus Walkers is on pause. Stay tuned for when they will resume.

Puzzle Exchange – There is a cart in the foyer with lots of jigsaw puzzles. Help yourself to a puzzle and/or bring one for someone to do. Making puzzles is a wonderful winter activity.

Community News

Winsloe United Church Winter Series Ceilidh on Sunday, April 2nd, at 2 pm. Host Eddy Quinn welcomes special guests Keelin Wedge and Christine Cameron. Featuring the House Band. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Over . . .

The Winsloe Players Presents “She’s Back” at the Carrefour Theatre on April 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd. All proceeds will support the QEH Foundation’s Big Day of Giving. Ticket prices are \$20/adult and \$10/child (under 12). Tickets are available by calling Proude Shoes (902-894-3504), Winsloe Irving (902-569-0166), Clow’s Red & White (902-621-0500), QEH Foundation (902-894-2425), or any cast member.

Calling all fudge makers! The Winsloe Players are graciously accepting donations of homemade fudge to be sold at intermission as an additional way to raise funds during their event. If you can donate this sweet treat, please contact Barb Jenkins at 902-626-6313. Thank you!!

Spring Park United Church is preparing for its annual spring yard sale. Mark your calendars! It will be **Saturday, April 22nd, from 9 am to 12 noon**. We are still looking for donations of the following items: jewelry, sports equipment, furniture, books, puzzles, electronics, bedding, curtains, crafts, children’s toys, home decor, and especially **indoor and outdoor plants** (please no clothes). Items can be dropped off on the stage. We are also offering to pick up items with proper distancing and public safety in mind. Please email the yard sale email address (springparkyardsale@gmail.com) or call the office to make arrangements. Admission by donation.

The Rural Municipality of Hunter River Council is please to announce the opening of the Hunter River Community Fridge located outside at the Hunter River Community Center, the Community Fridge will provide a space for residents of the area (if they are able) to donate perishable and non-perishable food items, and for those who may need a helping hand to take what they may need. Islanders from one end of the Province to the other, in both urban and rural centres are experiencing rapidly rising costs of putting food on the table for themselves and their families. It is hoped that it will allow those in the Municipality and the surrounding areas access to help close to home. The Fridge is accessible year round 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information about what can be donated and ways to help can be found on the Rural Municipality of Hunter River website, the Hunter River Community Fridge Facebook page or by contact the Municipal office at 902-621-0836.