

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada**

**March 17, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**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 the 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**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the  
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship and wonder.

**It is good to be here.**

It is indeed good to be together.

**Announcements**

**Birthdays & Special Occasions**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

There was a person who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

## Quiet Preparation for Worship

**Bible Presentation** (Bible is brought forward during the Introit)

**\*Introit** "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

## Call to Worship

And it begins.

**Life is a cycle –**

every moment a beginning,  
every moment an ending.

**Life is a cycle –**

ever changing, never static.

**Life is a cycle –**

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth  
and dies, it remains just a single grain."

**Life is a cycle –**

but in all the change,  
from birth to death and beyond,  
the one constant is this:

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

VU #333

## **Prayer of Approach**

Write your love on our hearts,  
**O God of all creation.**

*Silence is kept...*

Place your call into the depths of our souls,  
**for we are your people, always,  
for you are our God, always.**

*Silence is kept...*

Let your Spirit  
move us, change us,  
drop us into the earth,  
**and then help us grow...**

*Silence is kept...*

**Amen and amen.**

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

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 51:1–12

VU #776

**\*Hymn** “Deep in Our Hearts”

MV #154 vv. 1, 2, 3

**All God’s Children**

**Hymn** “Deep in Our Hearts”

MV #154 v. 4

**Call to Transformation and New Life**

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

**God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for us and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who journey his way will have his presence with them. Trust the Good News that you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with and in you. In the name of Christ, Amen.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kin-dom that is emerging among us.

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks”

MV #187

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**O God, you have written your promises on our hearts.  
May we, in return, continue to give our whole selves  
to your work in our world.  
Bless what we offer this day –  
gifts of our lives and of our labour.  
Amen.**

### **Listening for the Word**

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Jeremiah 31:31–34**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **John 12:20–33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I,

when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Creating God,  
you who created us of one colour within and many colours without, we come in praise and appreciation of our sameness and also our differences. We know your love for each of us is the same as your love for all of us. We long for peace and harmony in our lives but there are so many things that separate us: race, religion, wealth, poverty, sickness. We need your help that we might grow in the kind of love that causes us to practice the art of not only listening but hearing one another; to listen with our hearts and not just our ears, to give and receive respect; to be thoughtful and caring.

Teach us to hurt when others hurt and rejoice when they rejoice. It is only in sharing that we will grow in understanding. Peace at home and throughout the world revolves around understanding and mutual respect.

We desire to plant the seeds of peace by our words and deeds so that one day we may realize a bountiful harvest of goodness and earthly love. We thank you for blessing us with your unconditional love that promises us a place of peace that passes all human

understanding.

We pray in the name of Jesus who is the Christ. Amen.

**\*Hymn** "I Am the Dream"

MV #106

### **Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.

**But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.

Go cradle and share the **Light. Share** it to others as we go about your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

### **\*Benediction**

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. Go in faith, go in hope, go in love. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

VU #108 v.1

### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.