

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

March 3, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Third 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 is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Let Us Build a House"

MV 1 v.1

Call to Worship

Into the house of God we are called to enter,
to worship and receive the gift of grace.

As we step towards this sacred space,
we acknowledge all that can distract or exploit.

God calls upon us to cleanse our houses of all that does not find
its source in God's love.

**Together we give ourselves in worship and right relations with
our neighbour. Let us worship God.**

***Hymn** "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

VU #265

Prayer of Approach

**O God of temples and tables turned over, we enter this sacred
space of worship seeking your transformation and healing. Make
us ready for the kind of turned upside down world you are
seeking to build among us. We have come to this place of**

worship to be changed, so turn over our tables and make us whole. In the name of Jesus our saviour.

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 19

VU #740

***Hymn** "Oh a Song Must Rise"

MV #142 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "Oh a Song Must Rise"

MV #142 v. 3

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Holy God, there are times when we choose to bring our folly and the many reckless ways of exploiting folk into your house. Often time without our even knowing it. And so, when our houses of worship need change or when we have wandered from your ways, help us to turn towards you. Not because of what we can gain from you, but because your love is a gift unearned and unwavering. Grant us your grace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

God's compassion is deep and wide, from everlasting to everlasting. In seeking to transform this world, God's love reaches towards each of us with a tender embrace. Let this be our assurance this day and always. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The richness of God's love extends to all persons and in response to God's abundant compassion, we are invited into a spirit of generosity so that God's love may be known to the very ends of the earth. Let us give generously.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks”

MV #187

***Offertory Prayer**

O God, whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbour, our love for all persons. Use these gifts for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 20:1–17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

John 2:13–22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the

money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making God's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** "Jesus Christ Is Waiting"

VU #117

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 has turned our world upside down and called us to a life of transformation. Now, go forth changed, called anew, and walk with the God who continually makes us whole. **Amen and Amen!**

***Choral Benediction** “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” VU #108
v.1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.