

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

April 13, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Lent V

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

***Introit** "Spirit Open My Heart"

MV #79 (Refrain x2)

Bible Presentation (Bible is brought forward during the singing of the Introit)

The Candle of Unity

On this 6th Sunday of lent, Palm Sunday, we
lit a candle to bring us together in the spirit of unity.
We rest in the glow of that candle now.

Silence

As we ponder
how fractured and divided we can be as a people,
it can be hard to trust
that we will ever be brought together
in a real and lasting way.

We grieve
how unforgiving we can be to one another,
and how much harm and hurt we can cause—
simply by allowing our differences
to keep us apart.

And so today,
as we journey with Jesus
into Jerusalem,
this Palm Sunday...

...we extinguish our **Candle of Unity**—
just for today—
as a sign of our longing,
our repentance,
and our hope.

May this small act
remind us to seek new ways

of respecting our differences,
and respecting each other,
so that we may truly learn
to be together as one.

One people.
One body.
One beloved community.

Amen.

Candle is extinguished.

Hymn “Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights” VU #108 v.1

Call to Worship

Come, pilgrims on the way,
Come, travellers of heart and hope.
Today, we walk with Jesus,
not into power as the world defines it,
but into the city of resistance,
on the road of compassion,
toward the cross of love.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of peace.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who disrupts injustice.

Hosanna in the streets!

Blessed is the One who rides on a borrowed colt.

Hosanna to the humble Sovereign!

***Hymn** “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” VU #123

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One of wind and wave,
bless the branches of creation,
cut not for conquest but carried in peace.
May they be for us a sign of resistance,
a green shout of hope in the dusty streets of empire.
As we lift them high, lift also our courage.
May we follow your Way, not of triumph, but of truth and new
birth.**

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 118:1–2,19–29

VU 837 Parts 1, 3 & 4

***Hymn** “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” VU #357 vv. 1-3

All God’s Children

Hymn “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” VU #357 vv. 4-5

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

When we choose silence in the face of suffering—
forgive us, God of truth.

When we wave branches but do not walk the way—
forgive us, God of courage.

When we long for a messiah who will fix it all—
forgive us, God of transformation.

In your mercy, turn us around,
set our feet on your path,
and walk with us again.

Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends in Christ, the path is never easy,
but grace meets us at every turn.
In Christ, we are forgiven, reshaped, and sent.
Thanks be to God.

***Sung Response:** “Halle, Halle, Halle” VU #958

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Let us return to God a portion of what we have been given—
not out of obligation,
but in sacred trust,
as an act of worship,
and a sign of our gratitude.

Your morning offering will now be presented.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

VU #544

***Offertory Prayer**

**Hosanna, O God of grace—
as the crowds laid their cloaks before Jesus,
so we lay before you these gifts,
offered in joy,
given in hope,
blessed by your love.
Use them, and use us,
for the coming of your kin-dom.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Gracious God, as we hear the stories of Jesus’ final days again,
help us listen as if we had never heard them before.
By the power of your Spirit, engage us, shock us, and pierce our
hearts, so that your undying love overwhelms us with mercy and
grace through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Luke 19:28–40

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,

30 saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They said, “The Lord needs it.”

35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God

joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,

38 saying,
“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”

40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

In the spirit of Christ, who rode humbly into a hurting world...
we pray.

Almighty God,
Christ came to us in humility—
not with might, but with mercy.
Not with force, but with compassion.

Reaching out to all—
the unnoticed, the left behind, the hurting.

And you ask us...
to do the same.

So today we lift before you
those who live in humble places,
who carry heavy burdens unseen.

We pray—
for those without shelter,
in our neighbourhoods, our towns, our nation, our world.
For those who sleep rough,
and those who do not know where they'll sleep at all.

We pray—
for the poor,
and for all who go without enough—
enough food, enough heat, enough peace,
enough love.

We pray—
for those who live in isolation,
for the lonely and the forgotten.

(Silence)

**Strengthen them in your mercy.
And humble us, O God—
lest we forget how much we have been given.**

(Silence)

God of care and compassion,
we pray for all who have been humbled by life itself.

We remember before you:
those who carry illness, or injury, or pain...
those who have known death,
or disaster,
or fear,
or failure...
those who wrestle with anxiety,
and those for whom each day begins in uncertainty.

We pray—
for victims of crime,
and those who bear the weight of injustice,
through no fault of their own.

We remember—
those who suffer because of their own mistakes,
those learning hard lessons,
and longing for a second chance.

(Silence)

**Embrace them in your mercy.
And humble us—
if we ever think we are beyond the reach of sorrow.**

(Silence)

God of power and might,
we pray for those who have yet to learn the ways of humility:

For those who live carelessly,
who act recklessly,
who endanger themselves and others.

For those who misuse trust,
abusing power that was never theirs to hoard.

For those who mislead for gain,
or chase applause,
forgetting the eyes that are watching.

Humble them in your mercy.
And humble us—
if we grow numb to the weight of our own choices.

(Silence)

God of grace,
God of transformation,
we turn now to the quiet places of our hearts—
and name before you
those we carry with love and concern.
People and places near and dear to us.
Those whose comforts are few,
and whose struggles are too many.

(Silence)

Gather them into your mercy.
Hold them in your light.
And open us, O God—
to be signs of your love in the world.

This we pray,
in the name of Jesus—

the one who rides not above our pain,
but into it.

Amen.

***Hymn** “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours” MV #171

***Benediction**

Go now, not as spectators of a parade,
but as companions on the journey.
Go with your branches of hope,
your fists unclenched,
your hearts set toward peace.
For the road is long, but love endures.

We go in peace, in courage, in holy rebellion. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU #424

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.