

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
April 17, 2025 – 7 pm**

Maundy Thursday Service

Passover Seder with Christian Communion

Welcome

Introduction

Passover Seder Meal

Opening Blessing

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has brought us together to remember the night of deliverance, the night when you saved your people from slavery in Egypt. We give thanks for the gift of freedom, and for the deliverance we have through, Jesus the Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Song I Joyed When to the House of God VU #846

Lighting the Candles

As the candles are lit, together let us bless the Lord our God.

Blessed are you, O lord and God, ruler of the universe, for giving us festivals and seasons for rejoicing, and for bringing us to this time of the year: the springtime, the season of our freedom.

Prayer

Blessed are you, our Lord and God, for bringing us together this night to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As we gather here, we are linked with the friends and families who throughout the centuries have celebrated this Passover festival.

Prayer (Continued)

We celebrate the springtime; we celebrate the going out from Egypt; we celebrate our freedom; we celebrate our living, whose fullness is yours; we celebrate our future, which rests with you alone.

And so we praise your holy name for bringing us to this happy time; this season of our freedom.

Together let us bless the Lord our God.

Raise your cups and say:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God.

The Washing of Hands

The Questions

.... Together let us bless the Lord our God

Lift your cups and say:

The promise made to our forebearers holds true for us today.

The Story (Exodus 12:1-17, 29-36)

..... Together let us thank the Lord our God.

How thankful we must be to you, our God, the all-present One, for the good you do to your people.

Eating the Parsley

.... Together let us bless the Lord our God.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the fruits of the earth.

Eating the Unleavened Bread and Bitter Herbs

Eating the Haroset

The Roasted Egg

Shank Bone

Personal Deliverance

In every generation, each person must look at themselves as having come out of Egypt personally. For it was not our forebearers alone whom the Holy One redeemed. With them, God redeemed us too. So, in this spirit, we see ourselves as participants in the Exodus.

As inheritors of the priceless heritage of liberty, we join now in praising and glorifying God's holy name, remembering the task is ours to work for the liberty of God's people today: those who are bound by chains of poverty and injustice, and kept prisoner by slave-masters whose first priority is to exploit and control.

For the miracles wrought by God in the past, as well as in our day, we offer our thankfulness.

**For God has delivered us from slavery to freedom:
from sorrow to happiness;
from mourning to rejoicing;
from darkness to light.**

In gratitude for these blessings, we shall sing songs of praise, and we shall drink the cup of blessing.

Then, with a new song, and a renewed flavour, let us give thanks once again for our physical deliverance and our spiritual freedom.

**Blessed are you, our God, who has redeemed your people.
Blessed are you, great sovereign of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine.**

Song Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow VU #541

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Gathering

Christ invited you to this table of grace.

We come, hungry for holy mystery, thirsty for love unending.

The Spirit moves among us, weaving past and present, heaven and earth.

We gather in wonder, in remembrance, in hope.

Hymn Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face VU #459

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and Everlasting One, in the beginning, your Spirit hovered over the deep, calling forth life, breathing beauty into dust, shaping all that is seen and unseen. Through prophets and poets, through fire and flood, you have whispered your love. When we turned away, you called us home. When we were bound, you led us to freedom. And so, with those who have gone before us, and those yet to come, with the saints and the angels, the mountains and the seas, we lift our voices in praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution

Over. . . .

Mystery of Faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Consecration and Sharing

Prayer After Communion

Holy One, you have met us at this table.

In the breaking of bread, in the sharing of the cup,

You have fed us with grace, filled us with love,

And sent us forth to be your hands and heart in the

world.

May we go in peace, carrying the light of Christ. Amen.

Hymn Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ VU #468

Blessing & Sending

Go now in the love of the Creator,

The peace of Christ,

And the power of the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace to love and serve.

Thanks be to God! Amen.