

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

March 23, 2025 – 10:30 am

Lent III



Artwork by Rachelle Belair

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.

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 x 2)

Bible Presentation (*Brought forward during the Introit*)

The Candle of Joy

***Hymn** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU #108 vs 1

***Call to Worship**

You who are thirsty:

Come to receive living water.

You who are hungry:

Taste the bread that satisfies.

You who long for connection:

Receive the fellowship of this community, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

You who search for love:

Call to Worship (Continued)

Experience the love of Jesus expressed in music,
prayer, community, word and action.

May this time of worship fill and refresh you.

Let us worship God together!

*Hymn O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee VU #560

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, Keeper of Mystery and Wonder, draw us into the sacred circle of your presence. Bind us together in spirit and truth, that we may receive you and one another with open hearts and expectant souls. Let the rhythms of worship shape us, the words of scripture transform us, and the movement of your Spirit awaken us. Keep us ever open to the unexpected, that we may glimpse your hand at work in the world and discern your purpose unfolding within us. In the name of the Holy and the Eternal. Amen.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 63:1-8 VU #781

*Hymn Seek Ye First the Kingdom VU #356 vs 1 & 2

All God's Children

Hymn Seek Ye First the Kingdom VU #356 vs 3

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious God, you who see beyond our failings and frailties, soften our hearts when we are quick to judge. Too often, we turn away from those who disappoint us, forgetting that your grace is wide enough for all. Help us to see with your eyes—to recognize the slow unfolding of growth, to cherish the quiet fruits of kindness and faithfulness, to trust in the work of your Spirit in every soul.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Continued)

Forgive us when we falter, when we dismiss others too quickly, when we doubt that we, too, are worthy of your calling. Teach us to walk gently, to nurture with patience,
and to love with the great, generous heart of Christ.

In your mercy, shape us anew, that we may be bearers of your light, keepers of compassion, and sowers of peace in a world longing for grace. Amen.

Words of Grace

*Sung Response Halle, Halle, Hallelujah VU #958

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

*Presentation of Offering

*Offertory In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU #544

*Offertory Prayer

O Giver of life and Keeper of all, from your hand we have received, and to your care we return. Take these gifts, the work of our hands, and take our lives, shaped by your love. Bless and weave them into your purpose, that they may bring light to shadowed places, hope to the weary, and peace to the restless. In the name of Christ, our path and our guide. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

Anthem

Sermon *“Asking Better Questions”*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Silence

O God, give us hope in our time. Turn our hearts to you.

***Hymn** Will You Come and Follow Me VU #567

***Benediction**

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

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

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. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Thank You – Thanks are extended to Christine Belanger, for her beautiful gift of music this morning.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday – April 17th at 7 pm (Seder Meal & Communion)

Good Friday – April 18th at 10:30 am

Sunrise Service – April 20th at 6 am – Breakfast to follow at 6:30 am at the church

Easter Service with Communion – April 20th 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.

Time of Fellowship – Join us for coffee and/or other beverages before our Sunday morning worship service.

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.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, March 30th, are:

Joshua 5:9-12 *God takes away the shame of Egypt from the people.*

Psalms 32 (VU #759) *Blessed are those who are forgiven.*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *Anyone in Christ is a new creation.*

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *The prodigal son; the prodigal father.*

These are made available to you should you wish to read them during the upcoming week.

Congregational Meeting next Sunday, March 30th, following the worship service. The topic for the meeting is the paving of the parking lot and how would we be able to pay for the work.

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, March 30th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted. The promotions for March are Swiss Chalet/ Montana's - 7% and Walmart - 3.5%.

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.

Bowling – Save the Date!! – On Saturday, April 12th, from 2 – 4 pm we are planning a bowling afternoon at North Rustico Lions Club Bowling Alley, 17 Timber Ln. Please RSVP by calling Kim Rodd at 902-626-5252 or the church office at 902-964-2221. This event is being hosted in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church.

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

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

Eastertide Gathering of The United Church of Canada PEI Cluster Group (Continued)

Time: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Please note NEW time)

Where: Central Queens United Church (Hunter River)

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, April 22nd

How to Register: Email Nancie at nsgreenacres@gmail.com and let her know your name, phone number, email, and what community of faith you represent.

Topic Hint:

“Let’s Talk... Like Really Talk... Let’s Listen... Like Really Listen. It’s All About Communication... Like All About Communication”

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh on Sunday, March 30th, at 2 pm. Hosts Jacinta MacDonald and the Winsloe United House Band welcome special guest Chad Matthews. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Estate Fundraising Sale Indoors at Trinity United Church on Friday, April 4th, from 9 am -3 pm and Saturday, April 5th, from 9 am – 2 pm. Vintage China, Crystal and antiques, large selection of old collectibles, Corning Ware, quality housewares, many items still in original packaging, large collection of new TY bears and many wonderful gadgets. Something for everyone. Proceeds from the sale go to the Trinity United Church.

Former ‘Blue Crystals’ Concert – Park Royal United Church presents a special concert on Saturday, April 5th, at 7 pm, featuring members of the former Blue Crystals—David Altass, Gary Cudmore, Ian Hunter, Paul Chandler, and more—performing classic hits from the 1960s and 1970s across contemporary, country, and rock genres. The event also features We3, a local trio known for their vocal harmonies. Enjoy a fudge sale at intermission (cash only). Tickets are \$15 for adults, free for children, and available online via Eventbrite, at

Over

Former 'Blue Crystals' Concert (Continued)

the Church Office, e-transfer or at the door (cash only), **available now**. Proceeds support Park Royal United Church programs. For details, call (902) 894-9656

Lenten Poem

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
or thoughts to come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

By: Ann Weems