

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

March 30, 2025 – 10:30 am

Lent IV



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 Love

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

***Call to Worship**

We gather as a community, for the Lord has rolled away the burdens of our past.

We come to celebrate our journey of freedom, from the wilderness to the promise fulfilled.

In this sacred space, we remember the faithfulness of our Creator, as we are nourished by the gifts of life.

We gather in gratitude.

Call to Worship (Continued)

Let us lift our hearts in praise, for the Divine leads us into a land of promise.

With joy, we worship and give thanks, for love and goodness endure forever!

Come, let us worship together, in the spirit of unity and grace!

***Hymn** Come In, Come In, and Sit Down VU #395

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, we gather in your sacred presence, surrounded by the warmth of this community.

We seek your light to guide us, a spark of hope to uplift our spirits. Open our hearts to recognize your whispers in the rustle of leaves and the laughter of friends.

May your healing touch restore us, and may we be transformed by your love, flowing like a river, nourishing all who seek.

In this sacred space, draw us closer to one another and to you, our source of hope.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 32 VU #759

***Hymn** Teach Me, God, to Wonder VU #299 vs 1 & 2

All God's Children

Hymn Teach Me, God, to Wonder VU #299 vs 3 & 4

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, we gather in humility, recognizing your generous gifts, yet we confess that we often stray, like the wayward child seeking more.

Forgive us for taking your blessings for granted, for demanding more while squandering what we have.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Continued)

Help us to remember the joy of your embrace, and to return to you when we lose our way.

When we fail to cherish the love and grace you offer, draw us back into your arms, that we may celebrate the abundance of your mercy and steward your gifts with gratitude. 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**

Gracious Spirit, we offer these gifts with open hearts, tokens of our gratitude for the blessings we share. May they be transformed into vessels of compassion, serving the needs of our community and beyond.

Help us recognize the abundance in our lives, and inspire us to share generously, reflecting love and kindness in all we do.

May our offerings bring hope and connection to all who seek it. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

Joshua 5:9-12

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Anthem *Kingdom Come*

Sermon *“From Shadows to Celebration: Embracing Grace Together”*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Faithful God

Wrap us in your hope.

*Hymn *Though Ancient Walls* VU #691

*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.

Today’s Bulletins are placed in loving memory of Elmer Reeves (March 12). Lovingly remembered by Cecil & Marion Frizzell and family.

Today’s Bulletins are also placed in loving memory of Mary Smith. Lovingly remembered by Gordon, Margaret and family.

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 **7 am** at the church. **Please note change of time.**

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, April 6th, are:

Isaiah 43:16-21 *Look, I am doing something new.*

Psalms 126 (VU #850) *Those who sow in tears reap with joy.*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *I count everything as loss but knowing Christ.*

John 12:1-8 *Mary anoints Jesus with costly ointment.*

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

Congregational Meeting today 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 – Janet will be placing an order today. You can reach her 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%. The next order date is Sunday, April 13th.

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.

Sunday School Leader & Helpers are Needed – We are still looking for someone to lead Sunday School and others to help out. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

Bulletin Deadline—Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday evening**. Bulletin items can be emailed to office@cquc.ca.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off in the wooden box at the church entrance any Sunday or during church office hours.

Office Church Directory – In an effort to keep contact information as up to date as possible, please give Trudy any changes to your contact information. If you would like to be added to our directory, please contact Trudy at office@cquc.ca or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221. Thank you.

Camp Abegweit Board of Directors are **postponing the ANNUAL MEETING** until **Monday, April 14th**. The financial statements will not be ready in time for the meeting. The meeting will be held at Trinity United Church in Summerside, starting at 6:30 pm.

Camp Abegweit is holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at Spring Park United Church in Charlottetown on April 12th, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10.00. To reserve tickets, please contact Alex Corbett - 902-626-8037 or alexcorbett@campabby.ca.

Eastertide Gathering of The United Church of Canada PEI Cluster Group – Calling ALL... Regional Representatives, Ministry personnel, board/council chairs, interested local leadership, as well as regional executive members, regional committee chairs and retired ministry personnel living in the cluster area.

Save The Date! Mark Your Calendars! Put A Reminder Notice on Your Phones!

Date: Tuesday, April 29th

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

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

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 this afternoon, 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. Proceeds from the sale go to the Trinity United Church.

Central Queens Funeral Co-Op Annual Meeting - The Central Queens Funeral Co-op Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at the funeral home, 2538 Glasgow Road. Open House from 1 - 2 pm. Meeting begins at 2 pm. Everyone welcome. 902-964-2886. Storm date: Saturday, April 12th, at 2 pm.

Island Pregnancy Centre Easter Basket Fundraiser – An Easter basket filled with divine chocolate, a variety of amazingly delicious coffee, gift cards to cool coffee shops, sweet coffee mugs and a brand-new Espresso/Cappuccino machine!! Tickets are only \$10 each with 100% of the proceeds going to their supports and services. Tickets can be purchased in-person at either of their Centres with cash or cheque OR e-transfer to charlottetown@islandpregnancycentre.com (please note your name and phone number in the memo section of the payment so that your ticket will be filled out properly).

Over . . .

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. Tickets are \$15 for adults, free for children, and available online via Eventbrite, at the Church Office, e-transfer or at the door (cash only). Proceeds support Park Royal United Church programs. For details, call (902) 894-9656.

Mission and Service – *Breaking Barriers: Women in Theology and Leadership* – *Working to empower women and change the world.*

In India, social and cultural factors limit access to theological education for women in comparison to men. The Rev. B. Silpa Rani is actively encouraging women to pursue theological education and engage in leadership roles.

When Silpa started her first degree in Theology, she spent two years as the only woman in a class of 16. Now, years later, as she works on her doctoral dissertation, she has seen a gradual increase in the enrolment of women in theological programs. While this is encouraging, Silpa recognizes that there is still a long journey forward. While she seeks to empower modern women, she is also working to shed light on the experiences of women and minorities of the past.

Silpa was the recipient of a theological education scholarship, which paved her way to join the faculty at Bishop’s College, Kolkata. She has been exploring the unique identity of the Qumran community within the context of the Dead Sea Scrolls. She is actively researching to identify the women, children, and minority groups of the society, drawing parallels between the Qumran context and contemporary Indian context.

Your Mission and Service gifts provide support to leaders like Silpa, who are actively working to empower women and change the world.