

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

February 22, 2026 – 10:30 am

Lent I



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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation *(Brought forward during the Introit)*

*Introit

Don't Be Afraid

MV #90

*Call to Worship

We come into a season of stripping back, a season where the ground is bare and the air tells the truth.

We come into the wilderness, not to escape our lives, but to listen more carefully.

Here, hunger is named. Limits are honoured. False certainties fall away.

Here, God meets us not in spectacle or force, but in quiet faithfulness.

***Call to Worship** (Continued)

Come, let us worship the Holy One who leads us, and stays with us, in the wilderness.

Let us worship with honesty and humility.

***Hymn** O God, How We Have Wandered VU #112

Prayer of Approach

Holy God, you meet us not only in gardens of abundance, but in dry places and open ground.

You lead us into spaces where there is no excess to hide behind, no noise to distract us, no power to grasp.

In this season on Lent, slow our steps. Clear our hearing. Teach us to stay with what is given, to trust your presence when answers do not come quickly.

We come to you as we are, hungry, hopeful, uncertain, and we ask to be made attentive again. Amen.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer.... (on the screen)

Responsive Reading – Psalm 32 VU #759

***Hymn** Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold VU #605 vs 1

All God's Children

Hymn Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold VU #605 vs 2

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of truth, the wilderness exposes us, and we confess that we do not always welcome that honesty.

We confess our impatience when hunger lingers and answers delay.

We confess our desire to turn stones into bread – to force outcomes, to rush healing, to bypass vulnerability.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Continued)

We confess our hunger for certainty, our temptation to test rather than trust, our longing to control what cannot be controlled.

Forgive us when we mistake power for faithfulness and speed for wisdom.

Return us to the path. Teach us again how to listen.

Silence

Words of Forgiveness

Hear this good news:

God does not abandon us in the wilderness.

God does not shame us for our hunger.

God does not withdraw love when we falter.

Grace meets us where we are.

Mercy tends to us gently.

In the name of the One who walks with us through every dry place, you are restored and held.

Thanks be to God.

***Sung Response** Halle, Halle, Halle VU #958

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory** Christ Has No Body Now but Yours MV #171 (Chorus)

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust. Use them to nourish what is fragile, to strengthen what is weary, and to serve life beyond ourselves.

May our giving reflect a wisdom that honours limits and chooses care over control. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 *The tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

Matthew 4:1-11 *The temptation of Jesus.*

Anthem *“Would You Bless Our Homes & Families”* Choir

Prayer

Sermon *What Cannot Be Taken*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

For all who are walking through dry places – those facing illness, grief, or exhaustion, those living with uncertainty and fear – that they may be tended with care and compassion.

God of the wilderness, hear our prayer.

For communities strained by division, for leaders tempted by control rather than service, for institutions forgetting their call to humility – that restraint and wisdom may guide their choices.

God of the wilderness, hear our prayer.

For the earth itself, worn thin by overuse and neglect, for lands and waters crying out for rest – that we may learn again how to tend and keep.

God of the wilderness, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, when hunger clouds our judgment and fear narrows our vision – that we may trust the path beneath our feet.

God of the wilderness, hear our prayer.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Continued)

Gather all these prayers, spoken and unspoken, and hold them in your faithful care.

Amen.

***Hymn** Lead On, O Cloud of Presence VU #421

*Changing the Light

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction (Tune: KINGSFOLD)

Go now in peace through desert days,
God walks with you in hidden ways.
From ash and dust to hope made new,
The Lord of life goes forth with you.

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

Ministers	All of us
<u>Clergy</u>	Rev Greg Davis
Office Hours	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm
Office Phone	902-964-2291
Email	minister@cquc.ca
<u>Church Office</u>	
Office Hours	Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm
Phone	902-964-2221
Email	office@cquc.ca
<u>Website</u>	https://www.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 Ellen Davis, for her beautiful gift of music this morning. *Central Queens United Church*

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.

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.

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.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, March 1st, are:

Genesis 12:1-4a *God call Abram to be a blessing.*

Psalms 121 (VU #842) *I lift my eyes to the hills.*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 *The promise of God rests on grace.*

John 3:1-17 *Nicodemus learns that “God so loved the world.”*

These are made available to you for reading during the upcoming week.

Election of Elders – Each year, four (4) elders retire and four (4) new leaders are elected. Ballots are now available on the table in the foyer. Be sure to pick up your ballot. After you have made your selections, please deposit in the silver ballot box, also in the foyer.

Ballot deadline is Sunday, March 1st.

FundScrip – The next order date is **March 1st (corrected date)**. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

Official Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th, at 7:15 pm at the church. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Sunday School Helpers are Needed to assist in our Sunday School ministry. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

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Bulletin Deadline–Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday evening** and 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.

Puzzles/Book Exchange – Be sure to check out the wide variety of books and puzzles available in the main hall. Help yourself to a puzzle and/or book or bring some of your own to share!! If you happen to find any missing pieces of puzzles at home, there is a container above the puzzle shelves for these 'lost pieces'.

Pop Can Pull Tabs – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collection pop can pull tab which are then given to the Daughters of the Nile women’s organization. The funds go to the Shriners Hospital in Montreal where they are used to buy reading materials for children in the hospital. Your pop can tab collections can be dropped off here at the church. Thank you.

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh next Sunday, March 1st, at 2 pm. Hosts Jacinta MacDonald and the Winsloe House Band welcome special guests Ricky and Sandra Jones. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

“Sing for Camp Abby” – Camp Abegweit is extremely excited for their upcoming fundraiser, “Sing for Camp Abby”, hosted by Park Royal United church in Charlottetown on Saturday, March 7th, at 3 pm. Ticket Cost: \$20 (12 and under are free). Tickets will be available at the door. Doors open at 2:30 pm. Help create lasting memories for future campers. Your support helps keep the Camp’s spirit alive!

Spend a special afternoon as they celebrate the legacy of 80 years or memories, friendships, and unforgettable summers. This celebration and fundraiser will bring the community together for an uplifting musical showcase, including Park Royal Choir, Bedeque Women’s Choir, St. Andrews United Church Choir and so much more! Camp merchandise will be available for purchase.

Over

LENTEN POEM *by Ann Weems*

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,
for thoughts 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.

