

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

March 1, 2026 – 10:30 am

Lent II



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

How do we love? Let us count the ways.

Depth and breadth and height.

Yet God does not count love.

God shows it.

God loved the world 'like' this -

By giving.

Not standing far off.

But drawing near.

Not with thunder and threat.

***Call to Worship** (Continued)

But with open hands.

Come, then let us worship the Love that does not keep score.

We gather to behold Love's shape and to be shaped by it.

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

Prayer of Approach

God of depth and height, of night conversations and wilderness roads, you are not distant light but near presence.

You do not love in theory but in flesh and breath.

You step into our tangled world, into fear and violence, into systems that wound.

You love like this:

By showing up.

By staying.

By giving.

Open our hearts this day to the shape of your love.

Turn our eyes toward the lifted cross - not as ornament, but as revelation.

Meet us in our questions. Sit with us in the dark. And let your love take form in us.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 121 VU #844

***Hymn** Jesus Loves Me VU #365 vs 1 & 2

All God's Children

Hymn Jesus Loves Me VU #365 vs 3

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Love that does not run away, we confess, we prefer love that is safe.

We measure.

We calculate.

We give when it costs little.

We step back from pain.

We avoid the complicated parts of the world.

We turn from the wounds we do not know how to heal.

Forgive us for loving in theory more than in practice.

Forgive us for speaking of grace yet withholding mercy.

Teach us again the shape of your love.

Silent Prayer

Words of Forgiveness

Hear this good news:

God did not wait for us to be tidy. God loved the world 'like' this: stepping in, staying near, bleeding mercy into violence.

You are not loved because you measure up. You are loved because God shows up.

In Christ, you are forgiven. In love, you are held.

Thanks be to God.

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

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

***Presentation of Offering**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of our desire to love like you.

Shape them into shelter and hope. Shape them into justice and mercy. Shape us, too - that we may become living signs of your steadfast love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

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

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

Anthem *“For God so Loved the World/Shadow and Substance”*
Choir

Prayer

Sermon *“Not How Much – But How”*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God who loved the world like this, we pray for a world still poisoned by fear and resentment.

Lift before us signs of healing. Help us to look - and live.

For places torn by violence, for lands scarred by war - may love refuse to retreat.

Show us love’s shape. For communities divided by suspicion and pride - may forgiveness loosen hardened hearts.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Continued)

Show us love’s shape.

For those who suffer quietly - the anxious, the grieving, the overlooked - send companions who show up and stay.

Show us love’s shape.

For the church - that we may be more than a sign held high, but a people who embody what we proclaim.

Show us love’s shape.

And for the silent prayers we carry...

(pause)

God of open arms, teach us to practice what we praise.

Amen.

***Hymn** O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go VU #658

***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. Amen.

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
Website	https://www.cquc.ca

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd at 7 pm (Seder Meal & Communion)
 Good Friday – April 3rd at 10:30 am
 Sunrise Service – April 5th at 6 am – Breakfast to follow at 6:30 am at the church
 Easter Service with Communion – April 5th at 10:30 am

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.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, March 8th, are:

Exodus 17:1-7 *Water from the rock.*
 Psalm 95 (VU #814) *Let us shout to the rock of our salvation.*
 Romans 5:1-11 *Hope in God does not disappoint us.*
 John 4:5-42 *Jesus and the Samaritan woman.*

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

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.

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.

Election of Elders – Today is the last day to vote for your selection of four (4) new elders. If you haven’t already done so, please pick up a ballot and drop it in the silver box on the table in the main foyer. Thank you to everyone who has already voted.

FundScrip – Janet will be placing an order today. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted. The next order date is March 15th.

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.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 11th, at 7 pm for a NEWFOUNDLAND/ROAST for Rev. Greg Davis' retirement. You're invited to a fun evening with lots of music, and shared memories. A free-will offering will be collected at the door for a charity of Rev. Greg's choice.

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.

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.

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.

Puzzle/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 a puzzle at home, there is a container above the puzzle shelves for these "lost pieces".

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh this afternoon, 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.

World Day of Prayer 2026 – World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience through the life events of Christians from other countries and cultures, and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. This year's World Day of Prayer will be held this Friday, March 6th, at 2 pm at Holy Redeemer Parish (3 Pond St, Charlottetown). This year's service was written by the Nigerian World Day of Prayer committee.
I Will Give You Rest: Come – Matthew 11:28-30

More information is available by contacting Linda Dennis at lmakuch.dennis@gmail.com or 902-394-0818.

“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 this 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!

Come spend a special afternoon as they celebrate the legacy of 80 years of 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. Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Db88ZcVNz/>

More Community News

Commonwealth Day Celebration - The Royal Commonwealth Society of PEI invites the public to attend a free event in celebration of Commonwealth Day, March 9th, at 7 pm at the Kirk of Saint James, Pownal St. entrance. The Lieutenant Governor will read the Commonwealth Day message from His Majesty, King Charles III. Cadets will present flags of the 56 Commonwealth Countries. Music is by the PEI Regiment Band and special guests, the Singing Strings. A free will offering would be appreciated. Light refreshments afterwards.

St Patrick's Day Community Brunch – Join Chef Raymond Lau, event planner Anne Zakem, and the musical talents of “*Partly Mixed*” for an afternoon of delicious food and live entertainment! The Brunch will be held on Sunday, March 15th, at 12 noon here at Central Queens United Church. Tickets are \$30 (includes full brunch buffet + live music). *Menu Highlights:* Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Baked Beans, Potatoes, assorted Salads, Cake, GF Crumble, and more! (Gluten-Free options available)

Reserve your spot today!! Capacity is strictly limited to **50 people**. To register, contact Anne Zakem via text: 902-388-8944 (*Please call/text after 3 pm on weekdays*) or by email at annezakem@gmail.com.

Mission and Service – *Grandmothers Leading with Love*

In Kenya's Rift Valley, HIV and AIDS have reshaped entire families. More than 200,000 people in the region live with HIV. Many children are being raised not by their parents, but by grandmothers.

Women in their 60s and 70s are burying their own children and then stepping forward to raise grandchildren. They cook, farm, comfort, and pray—often while facing stigma in their own communities.

In some churches, HIV has been preached as punishment. A sign of sin. That stigma isolates families who are already grieving.

Through partnership with leaders at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, Mission and Service has helped create something simple but transformative: a space for conversation. Grandmothers and pastors gathered in the same room.

Over . . .

Mission and Service (Continued)

One grandmother stood and told her story. She spoke of losing both her children and described the pain of being judged while loving her children fiercely. She spoke of her grandchildren, and her unshakable belief that God's love does not abandon anyone.

Pastors listened. They asked questions, challenged their own assumptions, and made commitments. They pledged to preach compassion, visit homes, and offer pastoral care instead of condemnation.

That is how change begins.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping to create spaces like these, where learning replaces stigma, and where churches become places of healing again.

When we give, we help grandmothers carry hope and love instead of shame.

Help love have the final word: make your own commitment today and make a gift for Mission and Service.

Jesus, may we follow you on the pilgrim way of Lent,
May we journey with you into the wilderness,
Willing to move beyond the ordinary,
So that we can discover your unexpected sacred places.
Jesus, may we wash our hands and purify our hearts,
Learning to thirst after righteousness and hunger after justice,
May we humble ourselves before you,
Expecting to see you revealed in a new light.
Jesus, may we walk with you no matter how challenging the path,
Learning to be patient with darkness and growth,
Willing to live with not knowing,
Until your mustard seeds take root and sprout into live.

Author Unknown

