

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

March 15, 2026 – 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

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

There are stories in scripture that feel less like explanations and more like mirrors.

They turn toward us and ask: What do you see?

Christ comes among us not with blame, but with compassion.

Christ opens our eyes to the dignity of every life.

Come, let us worship the One who helps us see one another again.

We come to walk in the light of God.

***Hymn** A Light Is Gleaming VU #82 **Presentation of Our Gifts**

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, you are the light that gently opens our eyes. You see the beauty we overlook and the dignity we sometimes miss. In your presence certainty softens and compassion grows. Open our hearts this day / this hour. Teach us to see one another with kindness and humility. And let your quiet light guide us deeper into grace.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 23 VU #749

***Hymn** I Am the Light of the World VU #87 vs 1 - 3

All God’s Children

Hymn I Am the Light of the World VU #87 vs 4

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Compassionate God, too often we do not see clearly. We judge too quickly, cling to our assumptions, and overlook the quiet dignity in others. Forgive us when our certainty closes our eyes and hardens our hearts. Open us again to humility, to kindness, and to the light of your grace.

Silent Prayer

Words of God’s Steadfast Love

Hear the good news:
The One who brings light to the world does not turn away from our blindness. Again, and again Christ comes searching for us. Christ kneels in the dust of our lives and lifts our eyes toward grace. In mercy and love we are forgiven. In compassion and hope we are made new.
Thanks be to God.

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

Invitation to Generosity

***Presentation of Offering**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, from the abundance of your love we receive life itself. Receive these gifts we bring today. May they become bread for the hungry, welcome for the lonely, and light for those walking through shadow. Use them to widen the circle of belonging in this world you cherish. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

John 9:1-41 *Jesus heals the man born blind.*

Anthem

Guitar Group

Prayer

Sermon

“When Certainty Makes Us Blind”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** Open My Eyes, That I May See VU #371

***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

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd at 7 pm (Seder Meal & Communion)

Good Friday – April 3rd at 10:30 am

Easter Services

Sunrise Service – April 5th at 6:30 am – Breakfast to follow
Easter Worship with Communion – April 5th at 10:30 am

Thank You –Thanks to Christine Belanger for her beautiful gift of music this morning. *Central Queens United Church*

Welcome and thanks are extended to the Guitar Group for blessing us with their musical talents 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 22nd, are:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The valley of dry bones.*

Psalm 130 (VU #853) *Out of the depths I cry to God.*

Romans 8:6-11 *The Spirit is life, not death.*

John 11:1-45 *The raising of Lazarus.*

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.

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 29th.

Rosewood Service this Thursday, March 19th, at 6:30 pm. The UC Men will be assisting Greg with the service.

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

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.

Bowling – Come for a fun afternoon of bowling on Saturday, March 28th, from 2:30 – 4:30 pm at the North Rustico Bowling Lanes (North Rustico Lions Club). There is no charge; however, donations will be accepted. Please register with Trudy at the Church office by email at office@cquc.ca or by phone at 902-964-2221 or by calling Walter at 902-213-7015 by Thursday, March 26th.

Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast – Come join us for a pancake breakfast after the Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5th. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 am.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 11th, at 7 pm here at Central Queens United Church 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.

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 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.

Puzzle/Book Lending Library – Amid all the wonderful books that have been donated to the library, Rev. Greg has left several books that would be useful in planning a reflection / short worship for a small group gathering. He has also left some books by his favourite theologians. For more casual reading, we have Clive Cussler, Nicholas Sparks and James Patterson plus dozens of other authors. Come and check out what may suit your reading tastes. Also be sure to check out the wide variety puzzles available, all in the main hall.

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh this afternoon, March 15th, at 2 pm. Hosts Jacinta MacDonald and the Winsloe House Band with guest drummer Todd Gallant welcome special guest Tip-Er-Back with Darlene Bradley. Admission: \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Pancake Breakfast at Trinity United Church on Saturday, March 21st, from 8:30 -10:30 am. Tickets are \$10/ person or \$20/family. Please call 902-892-4114 to reserve your tickets or purchase at the door.

Chili/Soup & Song Event to celebrate the end of March Break and 1st day of Spring at Park Royal United Church on Saturday, March 21st, from 4:30 – 6 pm. Cost: \$10. Come into their gym, sit down and enjoy music by 'Grace Notes' and sing along while you have your supper. Call the Church Office at 902-894-9656 to book your spot.

King of Kings – On Saturday, March 28, at 7:30 pm Cine-Concert will present a screening Cecil B. DeMille's *King of Kings*, the 1927 silent film about the life and death of Jesus at Bonshaw Hall (9 Green Rd, Bonshaw). It is considered to be one of the biggest box-office successes for the depiction of Christ's life on screen. Musicians Dan Rowswell and Mat MacEachern will be providing the live musical accompaniment. Tickets start at \$16.77. To book tickets or for more information, please visit [Cine-Concert : The King of Kings - 1927 - \(with Live Musical Accompaniment\)](#). Roving Picture Shows, in partnership with Island Jazz, are touring the Island hosting screenings of silent films with live musical accompaniment.

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