

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada**

March 29, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

**Central Queens Mission Statement**

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

**Gathering for Worship**

**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**

There was a person who **did** such **amazing things** - **said** such **wonderful things** - that great crowds of people followed him

everywhere. One day they ask him, “Who are you?” He said, “I am the light.”

**Quiet Preparation for Worship** (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

### **Bible Presentation**

**\*Hymn** “Sing It! Hosanna!” Seasons of the Spirit Songbook # 34

**\*Procession of the Palms**

### **Call to Worship**

The city is stirring.

Something is happening at the gates.

**A rumour of hope moves through the streets.**

Not everyone notices.

Not everyone understands.

**But still, he comes.**

Not carried by force,

not surrounded by might -

**but riding on borrowed humility.**

Branches are lifted.

Voices rise.

**Hosanna — save us, we pray.**

Come, let us join the movement of grace

already unfolding among us.

**Let us worship the One who comes.**

### **Prayer of Approach**

**God of surprising ways,**

**you arrive where we least expect you.**

**Not at the centre of power,  
but along the edges —  
in the dust of the road,  
in the cries of ordinary people,  
in gestures so easily overlooked.**

**Gather us,  
here, in this moment,  
and re-tune our attention.**

**Let us notice what is quiet but real,  
what is small but alive,  
what carries the weight of your presence  
without needing to announce it.**

**Meet us here,  
not as we imagine you should be,  
but as you are.**

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 VU #837

**\*Hymn** "Tell me the Stories of Jesus" VU #357 vv. 1 - 5

### **Covenanting of new Elders**

#### **Prayer for transformation and New Life**

**God who comes without spectacle,  
we admit how easily we are taken in  
by what dazzles.**

**We have chased after voices  
that promise strength without compassion,  
certainty without listening,  
answers without wisdom.**

**We have been quick to celebrate  
and slow to understand.**

**We have wanted you  
to fit our expectations,  
to fix what we fear,  
to secure what we value,  
to stand where we stand.**

**And when you do not,  
we grow restless.**

**Forgive us  
for the ways we misread your presence  
and overlook your path.**

**Turn us again  
toward what is honest,  
toward what is life-giving,  
toward what endures beyond the moment.**

***(silent prayer)***

### **Words of God's steadfast love**

Hear what is already true:

God does not wait  
for our understanding to be complete.

Christ comes anyway -  
through our confusion,  
through our hesitation,  
through all that remains unfinished in us.

There is grace enough  
for what we have carried in,  
and mercy enough  
to meet us where you are.

We are not turned away.  
We are invited further in.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response:** "Halle, Halle, Halle"

VU #958

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

## **Invitation to Generosity**

On that day long ago,  
people offered what they had -  
    branches cut from nearby trees,  
    cloaks taken from their own backs.

Nothing elaborate.  
Nothing planned.

Just what was at hand,  
given freely.

So we offer what we can today -  
not because it is perfect,  
but because it is ours to give.

Let our gifts be part of something  
that carries life forward.

### **\*Presentation of Offering**

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

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Take these gifts  
and place them where they are needed most.**

**Let them move beyond this room -  
    into lives we may never see,  
    into situations we may never fully understand.**

**Use them to mend what is strained,  
to support what is fragile,  
to encourage what is just beginning.**

**And use us, too -  
in quieter ways, perhaps,  
but no less needed. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

As these words are read,  
let them find their way  
past what we already think we know.

Let them unsettle what is too settled,  
and open what has grown tight within us.

Give us the patience to listen  
and the courage to hear  
what might ask something of us. Amen.

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Matthew 21:1-11**

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’”

And he will send them immediately.”<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**Anthem** “Sing Hosanna”

**Prayer**

Let the words of my mouth,  
and the listening of all our hearts,  
be held in your grace, O God.  
May your peace rest upon us  
and guide us into what is true and life-giving. Amen.

**Sermon** *Comfort or Truth?*

## Reflective Music

### Responding to the Word

#### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of this world and all its complexity,  
we bring before you  
what weighs on us.

We think of places  
where power is used carelessly,  
where decisions are made  
without regard for those who will bear the cost.

We think of communities  
living with uncertainty -  
where tomorrow feels fragile  
and the future unclear.

We hold before you  
those who are tired—  
tired of waiting,  
tired of hoping,  
tired of holding things together.

Be present with them  
in ways that sustain and steady.

We remember those  
who feel invisible—  
whose stories are not heard,  
whose struggles go unnoticed.

Make us more aware,  
more attentive,  
more willing to respond.

And in our own lives,  
where we are uncertain which way to turn,  
or what to do next -  
grant us clarity enough for the next step.

Not the whole path,  
just enough light  
to keep moving.

*(Silence)*

Receive all that we have named,  
and all that remains unspoken.

Amen.

**\*Hymn** "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours"

MV #171

## **Changing the Light**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.  
**But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.  
Go cradle and share the **Light. Share** it to others as we go about  
your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

## **\*Blessing**

Go now into the days ahead  
knowing that not all movements are loud,  
and not all change is immediate.

Watch for what begins quietly.  
Pay attention to what endures.

And when you find yourself  
at a crossroads -  
between what is familiar  
and what is true -

have the courage  
to choose the road that leads to life.

May God go with you in that choosing.

Amen.

**\*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.