

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
March 28, 2024 – 7 pm

Our Lenten Journey: We Are Not Alone

Maundy Thursday

Welcome

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. All are welcome in this place.

***Please rise as you are able**

Gathering

Welcome

***Taize Chant** **“With our Darkest Night”**
Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that
never dies away, --
that never dies away

***Call to Worship**

We are invited to gather, to watch, to feel and to wait.

This sanctuary is a sacred place.

In these sacred moments, welcome the stillness. Experience the shadows – embrace the way.

We look for the light of God even in the midst of the shadows of despair.

Come then to worship, a time to watch and wait.

Quiet Time to Prepare

Setting the Scene for Betrayal and Arrest

Hymn Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross VU #142

Readers

Silence

Prayer

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the women and men who have followed him in every time and place, to live once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your painful love in action. Be with us, we pray, in the name of the One who is betrayed. Amen.

Hymn

Were You There

VU #144

**Water of Forgiveness, Water of Baptism,
Water for Washing Disciples' Feet**

Prayer

Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us, take our dusty journeys

and wrap your hands around them:

every path we have trodden in life,

every word that has taken us to hurtful scenes,

every thought that has moved us toward the shadows,

every act that has led us into harmful places.

Wash away the pain as we confess and you forgive.

Water is poured into the foot-washing bowl and the font

Take the wounds of our travelling

and hold them in your healing hands.

Every journey of remembrance that holds too many memories,

every memory that weights us down with anger we cannot surrender,

every place we have visited that holds too much pain

Wash away the lingering memories as we let go and you heal.

During a moment of silence, water is poured

Take away the discomfort we feel because of our failure to honour our own values

and cleanse us as you kneel at our feet.

Every lesson about love we have not learned,

every heavenly value we have not grasped,

every truth of your realm we have ignored.

Wash away hesitation as we accept your love. Amen.

During silence, water is poured and we reflect on our sin and shortcomings.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Sharing the Word

Hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross VU #149

Sacred Readings

John 13: 1-17, 34-35

Meditation

Silence

Remembering That Final Evening Together

Readers

The Table is Laid

Here is that bread, broken. Jesus said, "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

He said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

And no one who comes to me will I ever drive away."

Here is that cup, filled. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry;

whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:33-37)

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

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, you enable our living service in the world. We thank you for Jesus, who, on the night he was betrayed, gave himself to his friends in humble service and in bread and wine. May we be a continuation of Christ's service in the face of life's sin, pain, and suffering. Amen

Living in the Shadows

From the Upper Room into the World

Readers

The Christ Candle is Extinguished

(Stay as long as you wish and leave in silence when you are ready)

*Tonight's liturgy is adapted from **Gathering, Resources for Worship Planners: (Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2012, Year).***