

St. Davids-Queenston United Church
February 22, 2026, First Sunday in Lent 2026
Communion Sunday



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Land Acknowledgement

There were people here long before we came to live on this land as settlers and descendants of settlers. We acknowledge these many Nations of Indigenous people who first lived and currently live here. We give thanks to this land, the territory(s) of these Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. We do this to acknowledge our responsibility to enhance and promote peace among all who now share this land, as well as good stewardship of it and its resources.

** Please stand up as you are able*

GATHERING AND MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS)

*OPENING HYMN:# VU 112 “O God, How We Have Wandered”

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(Light the Christ candle) Today, we begin our forty-day journey into the wilderness of Lent. As we enter this season, we remember Jesus, who was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tested.

In our own wilderness of fear, doubt, and temptation, we seek the presence of God.

Let us pray. **Gracious God, accompany us in this wilderness. When we are tested, give us strength. When we are hungry, satisfy us with Your grace. Lead us through the darkness toward the light of Your salvation. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we enter this Lenten season, God renews God's promise to us. God promises to support us when life calls us to a tough decision.

Will we renew our promise to God?

God promises to travel with us through the places of testing.

Will we renew our promise to God?

God promises to show us the faithful and wise way.

Will we renew our promise to God?

God promises that when we fail or falter, God will not forsake us.

Will we renew our promise to God?

In the life and death of Jesus Christ, we know we are able to trust God's promises.

And so we recommit to our promise to trust God's leading in the hard places we encounter and in the hard places encountered in the life of our faith community.

Knowing that the promises of God are to be eternally trusted,
we come to worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

May your wilderness time, O Christ, inform our wilderness time, the wilderness time of this Lenten season and the wilderness times that we do not choose for ourselves. Help us to organize our thoughts and align them with God's love. Help us to breathe deeply of the breath of the Spirit. Help us to find your gift of living water. Help us to crack open and plant the dry seeds we have gathered so that spring can blossom with a plan that renews hope and purpose. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung) #960

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

**Welcoming all to: Gather in God's Grace,
Grow in Christian Faith and
Go in Community Service.**

SACRED MUSIC: "Holy is Your Name"

LEARN TOGETHER: #MV188 "I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus"
I thank you, thank you, Jesus (3X) in my heart. (repeat)
I love you, love you, Jesus, (3X) in my heart. (repeat)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 13:1,
Hebrews 12:1-3

*This is the Word of God for the people of God **Thanks be to God!***

SERMON: "Starting the Journey at the Table of Ultimate Love"

*HYMN # MV 162 "Christ, within Us Hidden"

A Communion Liturgy for the Whole People of God **Sacrament of Communion**

If you are joining us from home, please prepare your own baptism elements.

- The bread should be "taken" as received and,
- the wine together as a congregation (the wine is on the red side of the tray, the grape juice is on the other side.)
- In response to the words of the servers, you are invited to respond, 'Amen' or 'Thanks be to God'.

(B) Come, not because you are strong but because you are weak. Not because you are blessed but because you are hungry. Come because you know God a little and want to know God more. God is present in the act of communion.

(Y) The Holy One is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Turn to God, the source of Life. **Our hearts are lifted in prayer.**

Let us give thanks.

We offer joyful thanks to God.

(B) So it is that throughout these Lenten days and nights we worship you, and bless your name as we say together:

Holy, holy, holy God, our strength and our salvation! All of earth and sky are filled with your glorious presence. Save us, we pray, God-beyond-knowing. Blessed is the one who brings your mercy into the world. Save us, we pray, God-beyond-knowing.

(Y) When Jesus knew that his hour had come, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Getting up from the table, he tied a towel around his waist and washed their feet, and said, "I have set an example for you. Do as I have done."

(B) Then he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to all who were there, saying, "I Am the Bread of Life. Do this to remember me." And he blessed the cup, and gave it to all of them, saying, "I am the Vine and you are the Branches. Drink this cup to remember me."

(Y) Then he gave them a new commandment, saying, "Love one another as I have loved you, and everyone will know that you are my disciples by your love for one another."

(B) O God, Redeemer of all things, with grateful thanks we offer this bread and wine, fruits of your earth and of our labour, signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives and for all your creation.

By this bread and cup, we remember Christ and share in the mystery of your being, your bliss, your purpose.

And alongside the people of the church throughout the ages, we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come anew.

(Y) Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may be the body of Christ: your Good News lived out with purpose, held and inspired by you as a community of broken but hopeful believers. Loving what you love and living what you teach, may we strive to be your faithful servants in this time and place,

(B) Praise be to God the Creator, **source of love.**

(Y) Praise be to Christ the redeemer, **Love made flesh.**

(B) Praise be to the Holy Spirit, **Love's power and our companion.**

Praise be to God! Amen!

We Receive the Bread and Cup:

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

Jesus Christ, the Cup of Blessing. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN : VU 236 "Now Thank We All Our God" v 1

*Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

OFFERING PRAYER:

Generous God, we offer to you a portion of what you have given us: **gifts of time, of talent, and of treasure, gifts that care for those of us too often on the margins, gifts to support our partners overseas and within Canada, gifts that seem small, but that have large effects in Jesus' name.**

Bless what we give for your purposes in the world, we pray. **Amen**

***CLOSING HYMN** # VU 108 "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

COMMISSIONING AND VESPER

May God be with you in your challenges and in your celebrations, in your laughter and in your pain, in your sorrow and in your joy. Go into this week

sustained by God's loving embrace of all you are and God's merciful presence in all you do. **Amen!**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see;
God will be there, watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen*

*PIANO POSTLUDE

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the CE hall following the Worship service this morning. Today birthday cake is served in celebration of all of us born in February.



Thank You to **Elma Gardner** for being the greeter, to **Bob Prentice** for being the worship leader, to **Lisa Brillon** and **the choir** for their musical contribution, to **Enoch Cho** for leading the Sunday School, to the **UCW Ladies** for preparing coffee and goodies for the coffee hour and to **Allen Zhang/Bill Utting/Steve Hardaker** for livestreaming the Worship Service this morning.



Prayers have been requested for John and Eleanor's daughter - Kirstie Duarte, Bill Utting, Dianne Bergsma, George Dunn, Jim Gates, Bob Kerr, Jim Griffiths, Ivy Evans, Roy & Jennie Harwood, Ginny Slingerland, Elizabeth Whan and Anthony Logan Siconolfi.

Continuing prayers have been requested for Darren Desson, Rev. Doug Jones, Matt Jones, Marcia Tyrell, Paula Fisher, Michael Fisher, Jennifer Fulton, John Dunn & Family, Gary Hunt & Family, Jeanne Vanderburg & her mother Beaty and the families of Mary Buttle, Janet Vanderslagt and Michael Antoniuk.



Lent in 2026: Feb 18(Wed) ~ Apr 4(Sat), Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

•Feb. 22nd - First Sunday of Lent - Communion Sunday

- Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday
- April 2nd- 7pm, Maundy Thursday (hand washing) Service
- April 3rd - 10:30am, Good Friday Service
- April 5th - Easter Sunday

Lenten Bible Reading Challenge: Journey to the Cross:

To make Lenten season more meaningful, our church is launching the "**Lenten Bible Reading Plan: Journey to the Cross.**" We invite you to join this challenge to deeply meditate on the life of Jesus and experience spiritual growth during this sacred season. We look forward to your active participation!

Please print your Reading Plan from the attachment to your email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are welcome to attend and share in these times of remembrance for
Janet Vanderslagt; A Celebration of Life service, Feb 26 (Thur) at 2:00pm, St. Davids-Queenston United Church.

and

Michael Antoniuk; A Celebration of Life service, Mar 11(Wed) at 12:00pm, Grantham Optimist Hall, 188 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines.

Baptism & Confirmation Class: Feb 1(Sun) - Mar 1(Sun), We have nine youths already fully engaged in the lesson to deepen their walk with Christ through a special 5-week class.

Lent/Easter Food Drive. Project Share extended a thank you to us for 152 pounds of food/supplies raised at Christmas. Please consider contributing to the Lent/Easter Drive, as this need is increasing.

Thank you for your contributions in 2025 to sustain our building, purpose, faith and mission. Please pick up your tax slip, on the table in front of the kitchen.

Your Help is Appreciated, by taking home your bulletin. Thank you for your help with this!



“O God, How We Have Wandered” VU #112

¹O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

²And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

³O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace

Christ, within Us Hidden MV#162

¹Christ within us hidden. Christ in all and each.
Christ, who comes unbidden. Christ within our reach.

²Christ, born in our stable, Christ, our daily bread.
Christ, host at our table. Christ, the hungry fed.

³Christ in friendship's sharing, Christ, in stranger's face.
Christ, reborn in caring. Christ, in love's embrace.

⁴Christ, in bodies broken. Love new crucified.
Christ, the Word new spoken, death by love defied.

⁵Christ, in love recovered. Christ, in hope revealed.
Christ, in faith discovered. Christ in tombs unsealed.

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108

May be sung in canon

①

G Dsus D Em ② D G

1 Through - out these Lent - en days and nights we
 2 The pil - grim Christ, the Lamb of God, who
 3 We bear the si - lence, cross, and pain of
 4 And though the road is hard and steep, the

3

Am G D⁷ G Am G

turn to walk the in - ward way, where, meet - ing Christ, our
 found in weak - ness great - er power, em - brac - es us, though
 hu - man bur - dens, hu - man strife, while sis - ters, bro - thers
 Spir - it ev - er calls us on through Cal - vary's dy - ing,

6

D⁷ G Am G D⁷ G

guide and light, we live in hope till Eas - ter day.
 lost and flawed, and leads us to his ris - ing hour.
 help sus - tain our cou - rage till the feast of life.
 dark and deep, un - til we see the com - ing dawn.

5 So let us choose the path of one
 who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
 and slept in death, that we might wake
 to life on Resurrection Morn!

6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
 and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
 For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings,
 on Easter day will live again!