

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada  
December 17, 2023 – 10:30 am

Third Sunday in Advent

JOY

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.*

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 the Candle of Joy

Hymn      Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy      MV #33

Prayer

**Advent God: still we need you to come -- to release us from the bonds of anxiety and fear, to comfort those who mourn, to release so many in our world from the prisons of poverty, prejudice and war. We await the coming of your Messiah. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen**

Bible Presentation (*Placed during the singing of the Introit*)

\*Introit                      Hark the Glad Sound                      VU #29 vs 1

\*Call to Worship

Keep shadows without and light within;

**let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Keep fear without and justice within;

**comfort, comfort your people.**

Keep chaos without and life within;

**may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of gladness.**

Keep despair without and joy within;

**deliver us that we may rejoice.**

Come, O Advent God,

**and reveal your promise in us now.**

\*Hymn                      People, Look East                      VU #9

Prayer of Approach

**God of Mary, Mother of Jesus – and all of the lowly who seek to be lifted –**

**God of Isaiah, who felt the Spirit upon him calling him to bring Good News—**

**Let your Spirit fall upon us in this hour.**

**Out of the ruins, remind us of your everlasting covenant.**

**Anoint us as we seek to share and experience your Good News.**

**Bind our broken hearts.**

**Awaken us to the liberation within and among us.**

**Embolden us to proclaim your favor as we seek you more deeply.**

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

Responsive Reading – Luke 1:47-55 *Song of Mary*                      VU #898-899

\*Hymn                      Hope is a Star                      VU #7 vs 1, 2 & 3

Time For All Ages

Hymn

Hope is a Star

VU #7 vs 4

*Children may retire to Sunday School*

### Call to Transformation and New Life

#### Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Womb of Creation, we often get caught up in what we do not have – the material things we lack, the access and privilege we may lack, the answers that seem to escape us in crucial moments. Forgive us for the times we forgot to remember you. Hold us accountable for the moments we failed to see you in the blessings of ages past. Help us reconnect with our joy and our gratitude. Remind us to name our joys, our miracles, our deliverances, our redemptions one by one by one, for you are there in them all. Amen.

#### Assurance of God's Unending Love

#### Presentation of Our Gifts

#### Invitation to Generosity

#### Offertory

\* **Presentation of Offering** As With Gladness Men of Old VU #81 vs 3

#### \*Offertory Prayer

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the strengthening of the beloved community. Let these gifts usher joy into this world and signal to the people that God is still setting captives free. Amen.

#### Listening for the Word

#### Sacred Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

#### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*Sung Response from O Come, O come Emmanuel*

.... Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

#### Responding to the Word

\*Hymn                      There Was a Child in Galilee                      MV #134

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction                      Glory to God In the Highest                      MV #124

#### 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](mailto:minister@cquc.ca)

#### Ministry of Music

**Kirk Neville**

Website

<https://cquc.ca/index.htm>

Phone

902-786-9222

Email

[nevillejk@hotmail.com](mailto:nevillejk@hotmail.com)

#### Church Office

Office Hours

Wednesday & Thursday  
9 am – 12 pm

Phone

902-964-2221

Email

[office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca)

**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. All are welcome.

### **Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve December 24 at 10:30 am Communion Service  
December 24 at 5:30 pm Inter-Generational Service

### **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](mailto:minister@cquc.ca) for an appointment.

**FundScrip** – The first date to order for 2024 is Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. You can reach Janet Howes by email [jhowes1969@gmail.com](mailto:jhowes1969@gmail.com) or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.



**Social Time** – Please join us after the worship service today for a social time. Let’s enjoy a wonderful time socializing together.

**Sunday School** has resumed. Anyone who can help with this important ministry, please contact Greg at 902-964-2291 or by email at [minister@cquc.ca](mailto:minister@cquc.ca). Help us to continue this very important ministry.

**Christmas Carol Concert**, hosted by Central Queens Musical Friends, is tonight, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. They will be joined by guests Sarah Weeks, Brad & Anika Trivers, Wade & Braiden Campbell, Wina Reardon, Marsha Weeks and Greg & Ellen Davis. Free-will offering. Come and enjoy the reason for the season.

**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](mailto:veldabertram@gmail.com).

**Rosewood Service** this Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm. The Elders will be assisting Greg in leading the service.

**Mitten Tree** – The mitten tree has been set up again this year at the front of the sanctuary. Let’s cover the tree with lots of mittens, scarfs, and hats! These items will then be distributed to neighbouring schools. The tree will be up until Christmas Eve. Help us fill it to overflowing!

### **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.

**Sunday Worship Cancellations** – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made by radio on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page if our church service is cancelled.

**Official Board Meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm.

**Annual Meeting** – Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service. Deadline for reports is **Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please email them to [office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca). Thank You.

**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.

**Pop Can Pull Tabs** – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collecting pop can pull tabs 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 pull tab collections can be dropped off at the church. Thank you.

**Food Bank** – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off any Sunday or during church office hours in the wooden box at the church entrance.

Over .....

**Puzzle Exchange** – There is a cart in the foyer with lots of jigsaw puzzles. Help yourself to a puzzle and/or bring one for someone to do. Making puzzles is a wonderful winter activity.

### **Community News**

**Christmas Carol Service** at Winsloe United Church on tonight, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Blue Christmas** – This Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, there will be a 'Longest Night of the Year Service' at Park Royal United Church. You, your family, and friends are invited to a time of worship and remembrance to experience together God's presence, comfort and peace, the true gifts of Christmas. Light refreshments will be served in the foyer following the service.

**95th Birthday Party** – You are invited to an Open House to celebrate Christie (Loughran) Easter's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 pm at the Hunter River Lions Club (4615 Rte 13). Best Wishes Only.

