

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada  
December 24, 2023 – 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday in Advent

LOVE

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 Love

Hymn Jesus Came Bringing Us Love MV #33

Prayer

**Advent God, who calls us always to be witnesses to your love for our world: may we say "Yes" to your call. Come, this holy season, into our hearts and minds, our lives, and actions. Help us to learn your will for our time and to have the courage to live it. 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 love within;

**deliver us that we may rejoice.**

Come, O Advent God,

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

\*Hymn Once in Royal David's City VU #62

Prayer of Approach

God with us—

**The one who takes us from the tent to the throne—**

**The one who prepares places for us and promises rest from our enemies—**

**We open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kin-dom.**

**We seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually renewed, transformed and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope and quenchless joy.**

**May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you.**

**May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us.**

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

\*Hymn Hark the Glad Sound VU #29

*Children are invited to stay during worship and participate in communion*

Call to Transformation and New Life

## Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of mystery and mercy, you came to offer us love, but we confess we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live.

You came to reconcile all people, but we often nurse grudges and resist repairing relationships.

Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be, through Jesus the Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross. 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

Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful resources you have given to us. Let these gifts bring glory and honor to you and beauty and peace to your creation. Amen.

### Listening for the Word

## Sacred Readings

Luke 1:26-38

## Anthem

## Sermon

## Reflective Music

### Responding to the Word

## Hymn

All Who Hunger

VU #460

## Holy Communion

And so it begins, our God, our annual trek to the manger. We call to mind all that lies waiting for us to attend to. We may find ourselves overwhelmed. We may find ourselves profoundly grateful. But we know, like Mary and Joseph, that we can only come one step at a time, in whatever condition we find ourselves. We come in the midst of all our living, seeking holy moments of communion with you.

*(pause)*

## Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1 vs 1

You, O God, are the great Christmas Architect. You, who hurled the stars into space, created the swirls of our fingerprints so that no two are alike. You make life to stir within us and call us to yourself for new life, over and over again. It is you for whom we hunger, you who quench our thirst.

*(pause)*

## Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1 vs 1

Grateful for those moments of quiet and calm, grateful for this food prepared for us, remembering your love offered in the kindness of strangers, the devotion of friends and family, the comfort of the gentle places of the heart, for you, we wait. As so it begins again .... your love made known in bread and wine, in flesh and blood, in death sighs and birth cries – in all, you are with us, and we bring the offering of our hearts.

*(pause)*

## Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1 vs 1

*(Bread and cup are presented)*

When we break open our lives and share them with others on the journey, we understand that bread, broken and shared, brings us Christ's life.

## Holy Communion (continue)

When we pour out our lives and share them with others on the journey, we understand that the wine of our living, poured out and shared, brings us Christ's life.

Bread and cup remind us that Christ is with us on the journey as we begin again.

*(Communion is served)*

The Bread of our Living – Christ, for whom we wait.

The Cup of our Sharing – Christ, our Love.

Come for all is ready.

## After Communion Prayer

**Holy one, we have been nourished again at the table of your hospitality. None of us have been turned away - may we turn away none of our sisters, brothers - folk. We have experienced your justice, your mercy, and your peace. May we seek justice for the oppressed, mercy for the enslaved, peace for the quarrelling and troubled. We return soon to familiar places of living;, may we be ready always to meet you, our host, our guest. Let your love be in us for the honoring of your creation and the building of your community. By your Spirit's power, may we walk as witnesses to the grace we have known in Jesus. Amen.**

\*Hymn                      She Walked in the Summer                      VU #12

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\*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

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[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.

**Communion** – The bread serviced today for Communion is gluten-free.

### **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.

**Pie Sales** – The profit for the pie sales was \$1,338.95. Thank you to all who bought and helped the day of pick up. *The Fundraising Committee*

**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.

**FündScrip**

**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.

**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)

**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.

**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.

### **Community News**

**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](#).