

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 3, 2023 – 10:30 am**

First Sunday in Advent

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 Hope

Hymn Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope MV #33

Prayer

**Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of the darkness of our times, and may we look for the coming of Jesus into our world.
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 injustice within;
comfort, comfort your people.

Keep chaos without and life within;
may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Keep despair without and hope within;
deliver us that we may rejoice.

Come, oh advent God,
and reveal your promise in us now.

***Hymn** All Earth Is Waiting VU #5

Prayer of Approach

Our cry is one of longing, O God, for restored relationship with you. As we enter the season of Advent, the longing is at its greatest. It can be hard to find you in our world, yet we believe you are here with us, renewing all that is broken. Come among us and, in flesh, abide with us, that we may witness your presence around us, and be filled with a new vision of your world.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 80 *Part One* VU #794

***Hymn** O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60 vs 1 & 3

All God’s Children

Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60 vs 4

Children may retire to Sunday School

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

We come singing songs of hope this morning. Though we may not be inspired much right now,

we still sing.

Though it may take us some time to sit with our hampered thoughts and sift through the growing pile of despair,

we still sing.

In spite of everything outrageous and sad—though we may be beyond belief, depressed, confused and mad— some of us got dressed, and some of us made it out of bed or out the door and

we still sing

of hope.

God, remind us that we have gotten through a lot of things we didn't think we could— that you have not left us nor forsaken us—that our individual and collective ancestors still sang new songs in the valleys of death. And so,

we still sing,

too.

Embolden us as we try to show the world that we can find hope even when it seems impossible to bear.

Hope must be there.

Fear never wins.

The work begins in us.

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

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community,
we dedicate these gifts.

For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission,
we dedicate these gifts.

Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9 *We are the clay; you are our potter*

Mark 13:24-37 *The Son of Man coming in the clouds*

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** I See a New Heaven VU #713

*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

Ministry of Music

Kirk Neville

Website

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

Phone

902-786-9222

Email

nevillejk@hotmail.com

Church Office

Office Hours

Wednesday & Thursday

9 am – 12 pm

Phone

902-964-2221

Email

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.

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 for an appointment.

FundScrip – The last date to order for 2023 is next Sunday, December 10th. The first order date for 2024 is January 7th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

FundScrip

Social Time – Join us on Sunday, December 17th, for a social time after the worship service. Bring sandwiches or sweets to share. Let’s enjoy a wonderful time socializing together.

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.

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. Help us to continue this very important ministry.

Sounds of Christmas – You are invited to enjoy the “Sounds of Christmas” concert at Central Queens United Church tonight, December 3rd, at 7 pm. This seasonal performance will feature Kirk Neville, Bonnie LaFrance and friends. Come get an early start enjoying the spirit of Christmas in a wonderfully musical, stress-free environment. Admission is \$12 at the door.

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.

Frozen Pie Pick-Up – Tentative date for pickup at the church will be this Thursday, December 7th, from 12 noon - 6 pm.

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 schools. The tree will be up until Christmas Eve. Help us fill our Mitten Tree to overflowing!!

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.

Christmas Carol Concert – You are invited to a Christmas carol concert on Sunday, December 17th, hosted by Central Queens Musical Friends with guests Sarah Weeks, Brad & Ankia Trivers, Wade & Braden Campbell and Ellen Davis. Concert starts at 7 pm. Free-will offering. Come and enjoy the reason for the season.

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.

Community News

Christmas Concert - Award winning Prince Edward Island folk music group, Fiddlers' Sons, will play at Park Royal United Church, this afternoon, December 3rd, from 2 - 4 pm. The band features storyteller, author and three-time Music PEI Male Vocalist of the Year Eddy Quinn, singer songwriter and guitarist John B. Webster, and fiddler Allison Giggey. Christmas food items will also be available for sale. Tickets will be available at the door.

Christmas Concert featuring Dino and the Harmonies with special guest Garth Proude at Winsloe United Church tonight, December 3rd, at 7 pm. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 6:30 pm.

“A Not So Perfect Christmas” – a musical play for World Vision at New Glasgow Christian Church tonight, December 3rd, at 7:30 pm. Free Admission. Donations accepted to help send a stable full of animals to a World Vision village.

Trinity United Church Christmas Dinner on this Saturday, December 9th. Dine In Dinner: 5:30 pm. Takeout Pickup: 4:30 pm (Sydney Street). Cost \$20 per person. Proceeds to Food Bank. Tickets available at the church office by calling (902)892-4114.

Blue Christmas – As Christmas decorations go up, tree lights are lit, and people celebrate in festive ways, we acknowledge the reality that for some it is difficult to enter into and to engage this ‘joyous’ time of the year. The death of a loved one, an illness or other significant changes that have been experienced, all profoundly affect the way in which one experiences the Christmas Season. On Wednesday, December 20th, at 6:30 pm, there will be a ‘Longest Night of the Year Service’ (Blue Christmas) at Park Royal United Church. You, your family, and friends are invited to gather with us for a time of worship and remembrance, as we pray for, and experience together, God’s presence, comfort and peace, the true gifts of Christmas. Light refreshments will be served in the foyer following the service. For more information, please call the Church Office at 902-894-9656.