

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada  
December 31, 2023 – 10:30 am  
First Sunday after Christmas

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 & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lights of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

\*Carol Joy to the World VU #59

\*Opening Prayer

Praise the living God! Praise God from the heavens:  
**sun and moon and shining stars, praise the living God!**

Praise God's Holy Name,  
**whose word speaks all things into being who is present in the  
expanse of the universe, and in the voices of children.**

Praise the living God, our rescuer and deliverer,  
**whose wonder is found in the heavens and in all creation,  
who comes in innocence, and with mercy.**

O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: with the appearance of  
your son, you have brought us into your new creation.  
**Form us into your people, and root our lives in you, through  
Christ, the Living Light.**

\*Carol Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU #43

Hearing God's Word

Isaiah 35:1-10 *The Return of the Redeemed to Zion*

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem VU #64

Story

Isaiah 11:1-9 *The Peaceful Kingdom*

Carol Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay 'round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league, hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain".

"Bring me mead and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither"  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together.

Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how  
I can go no longer"  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly".

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.

#### Story

**Carol**            It Came Upon the Midnight Clear            VU #44

#### Story

**Carol**            Silent Night, Holy Night            VU #67

#### Story

#### Anthem

### Responding to God's Word

#### Community at Prayer

#### Invitation to Offering

**\*Offering**            In the Bleak Midwinter            VU #55 vs 4

#### Offering Prayer

**\*Hymn**            See Amid the Winter's Snow            VU #76

#### \*Blessing

#### 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.

**Today's Bulletins** are placed in loving memory of Oscar Lajeunesse. Remembered by Lois Lajeunesse and family.

#### 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.



**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.

**Official Board Meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm. At this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on a proposal that could change the structure of the United Church. For a study guide and other background, visit the website [gc.44.ca](http://gc.44.ca) and click on Remit 1. We encourage people to attend this meeting.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Bulletin Deadline** – Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday** evening. Bulletin items can be emailed to [office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca)

**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.

**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

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

**Winsloe United Church Ceilidh** next Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm. Hosted by Jacinta MacDonald with the Winsloe United House Band with Steven Perry. Special guests are Tip-Er-Back with Darlene Bradley. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.



Twas the night after Christmas, and all through the house.  
All the creatures were stirring, but thankfully not a mouse.

The gifts had been opened with presents and toys,  
And the kids were all playing with wildness and noise.

The wrappings and gifts were strewn round the tree:  
So many things there, no floor could I see.  
The sounds all around me led me to believe  
That all of us were ready some sleep to receive.

There were sounds of Legos, doll play, and games,  
While I also heard one call another one names.  
When I went to inspect, I tripped over the mess;  
And when asked "Can I have more candy, Mom?" I answered, "I guess."

I sat down and surveyed the chaotic scene,  
And I wondered if we'd lost sight of what it all means.  
But I saw a sad sibling getting hugged by another,  
And I saw them having fun and playing with each other.

Surrounded by all of the candy and toys,  
We're trying to teach them of permanent joys.  
We're trying to put away all of the mounds of stuff,  
And teach them that Jesus is more than enough.

I know in my heart that this lesson isn't taught  
In one day of celebration or one Advent Wreath bought.  
It's taught in the lives we live out day by day,  
In the way that we choose to live, work, and play.

The choice to glorify God, to live lives in His praise,  
Is one that we must choose to make each of our days.  
My desire is for my children to know  
That it's not just on Christmas Day we can our love for God show.

And so as we end our celebrations for this year,  
The message for myself and for my children to hear  
Is that we can ever seek to love God with our behavior  
Because all year long He's our Lord and our Savior.

*© Leah Courtney @aswewalkalongtheroad.com*