

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada**

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Covenant between Congregation and newly elected Elders

Central Queens Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the 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 of the Christ Candle

There was a person who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" VU #400 x2

Call to Worship

We delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.

Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.

Come, let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

Amen.

***Hymn** "Now the Green Blade Rises" VU #186

Opening Prayer

Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives. Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love. Plant us together in your peace. Root us together in your hope. Transform us

together by your equal justice for all. In your loving presence, we pray.

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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 22:25–31

VU #746 Parts 3 & 4

Hymn “Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!”

MV #121 vv. 1-3

All God's Children

Hymn “Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!”

MV #121 vv. 4-5

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Cultivating God, in your generosity, we receive new blessings with each passing day.

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

You offer us light from the sun, moon and stars to guide, nurture and lovingly shine upon all creation.

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

Your loving generosity is more than we could ever hope for and beyond imagination.

Great is your faithful abundance, O God.

Let us give our offerings with a heart of gratitude for God's Garden of blessings and love. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

VU #540

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Compassionate God may these gifts be blessed by your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches of despair to bring us hope. Shine your light of peace on our weariness to bring us justice for all. With Christ as our vine, save us from all that seek to bring us harm. May these fruitful gifts be a blessing in your garden of love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and that love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that God has sent the Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister,

whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1–8

“I am the true vine, and God is the vine grower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit is pruned to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Congregational Covenant with Elders

Scripture

Let us hear the message of scripture.
There are different ways of serving,
but the same God is served.
There are different abilities to perform service,
but the same God gives ability to each of us.
The Spirit's presence is shown in some way
in each person for the good of all.
Christ is like a single body which has many parts.
If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with
it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share in its
happiness. All of us are Christ's body,
and each one is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12

Statement of Purpose

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude
that you have been called by God,
and chosen by the people of Central Queens United Church
for leadership in the church.
This ministry is a blessing, an honour and a responsibility.
It recognizes your special gifts
and calls you to work among us, with us and on our behalf.
We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God,
and to all God's people.

Covenant Questions and Promises

As you come to assume the duties as Elder,
let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

to the elders (*Elders stand*)

As a disciple of Jesus Christ,
will you continue to live out your faith
with praise and Thanksgiving?
Will you carry out your responsibilities
in this congregation with integrity and joy?
I will, God being my helper.

to the congregation *(Congregation stand)*

Will you, the members of central Queens United
Church honour the leadership of these people?
We use system through daily prayer,
generous support, and personal example,
so that, together, we may be a faithful Church of Jesus
Christ?

We will, God being our helper.

Prayer

**Loving God, you have called these people to serve you.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all
that we may keep the promises we have made this day.
Help them to fulfill their responsibilities.
May their leadership help us all
to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.**

Declaration

In the name of God: Creator, Christ and Spirit,
we recognize and affirm you
in your ministry as elder.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** "O Lord My God"

VU #238

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.
But it is still here! It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.
Go cradle and share the **Light. Share** it to others as we go about
your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

***Benediction**

You are a chosen people.
You are royal priests, a holy nation,
God's very own possession,
in order that you might show others the goodness of God,
who has called you out of darkness into light!
Go from this place in confidence,
knowing that the presence and the power of God go with you!
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Go Now in Peace"

VU #964

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**