

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

**December 1, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**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 communion, 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**

**\*Introit**                      **Will you come, gather in?**                      **tune: MV #79**  
**Come in hope and come in wonder.**  
**There is life in our longing.**  
**There's a voice -- in the thunder.**

## Will you come, gather in?

### Bible Presentation

### Lighting the Candle of Hope

Hymn "Hope is a Star"

VU #7 v. 1

Reader On this first Sunday of Advent, we come with hope as a community of faith.  
We watch, we wait, we wonder.  
We come and hope for God's promise to bring light to this world.  
We wait in hope for the coming of Jesus, the Christ child.  
As we light the first candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the spirit of hope.

*(Take a breath, then light the candle)*

### Prayer

**God of hope, on this first Sunday of advent, fill us with hope for the world and for the church, knowing that Jesus, the Christ child, brings the light of hope. Amen.**

Hymn "A Candle is Burning"

VU #6 v.1

### \*Call to Worship

In the midst of night's shadows and anguish,  
**we pray earnestly to experience your presence.**  
As dawn slips into the horizon and relieves night of its reign,

**we pray earnestly to sense your presence.**

As daylight grows into noontime, filled with the glow of sun's  
light,

**we pray earnestly to know your presence.**

Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn**

“When Long Before Time”

VU #248

### **Prayer of Approach**

**God of love,  
you come to your people and dwell with us.  
You come with power to transform all things.  
You come with promises to make all things new.  
You come with signs of your deep love for the world.  
You come, and your truth breaks into our lives  
shattering lies and half-truths, setting your people free.**

**Your coming is our hope,  
and so, we offer you our praise and prayers in gratitude and  
anticipation.  
Continue to come into our lives, O God,  
and show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging,  
for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh,  
Jesus the Christ, your promise and our desire.**

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who 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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 25:1–10

VU #752

**\*Hymn** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

VU #60 vv. 1, 3

**Time for All Ages**

**\*Hymn** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

VU #60 v. 4

**Call to Transformation and New Life**

We gather together in this season of Advent  
anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy  
and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**God of surprises,  
forgive us when we grow indifferent to the  
beauty and wonder of your presence,  
when we lose hope and settle for the same routines without**

**expecting anything new.**

**Forgive us for staying silent when we should have spoken,  
and for neglecting the care of your world and one another.  
Awaken us to your holy and hopeful presence,  
so we may stay alert and ready for you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Assurance of God's Unending Love**

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid but rejoice in the God who comes to us.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Offertory Invitation**

God continues to increase love in our hearts for our neighbours within our congregation, community, and world. Through our various gifts, we are able to strengthen our connections and grow with our God, Holy Crafter of Gifts.

### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** "You Nourish Us" VU #545

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts,  
knowing the needs in your world are great and our gifts alone  
will never fill those needs. We offer our gifts in hope that you**

**will bless them and use them to help fulfil your purpose revealed in Jesus. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

Spirit of God, move within and among us today,  
to open God's Word, read and proclaimed, for us.  
Guide us to your truth and  
help us discern and understand your Word,  
pointing us to Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

### **Sacred Readings**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14–16**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

#### **Luke 21:25–36**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

O Spirit of Hope,  
when the world is confusing and bleak,  
you pierce the despair with your Word,  
and renew our vision of God's possibilities for our lives.

Thank you for lessons learned,  
for changes of heart and mind,  
and for new discoveries made and hope restored.

As the seasons turn to winter,  
we pray for those who feel the burden of loneliness and isolation.  
We remember those without homes to shelter in,  
and those forced to leave their homes

because of conflict, natural disaster or political upheaval.

---- We take time to hold them in prayer.

*(time of silence)*

Spirit of Hope, shelter all these under your wings.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

O God of Peace,

the world and our relationships, homes and workplaces  
are too much filled with conflict, strife and disagreement.

We pray for places where hurt feelings, violence and cruelty appear to  
win the day --- we take time to hold them in prayer.

*(time of silence)*

God of Peace, work for just and peaceful resolutions to prevail.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

O Creator of Joy,

we thank you for moments of joy and celebration in our lives,  
for pleasure given and received,

for quiet times of reflection and conversation,

and for the many ways that allow us to keep in contact with those we  
love.

We remember those who feel bitter while others rejoice,

those who grieve the loss of loved ones,

and those who face a bleak winter for any reason.

---- We take time to hold them in prayer.



*(time of silence)*

Creator of Joy, bring to your people warmth and lightness in the season ahead, and let your joy shine through us as compassionate companions.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

O Love divine made flesh in Christ,  
you call us into communion with you and community with one another.  
We pray for your church and this congregation,  
that love will guide all your people as we plan for our life and mission.  
And we remember before you our families, whether we are close or estranged;  
and our friends and colleagues who furnish our lives with love. --- We take time to hold them in prayer.

*(time of silence)*

Love Divine, bless each one with your love  
and help us express our gratitude and concern for each other in word  
and action.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn**                    “All Earth is Waiting”                    VU #5

### **\*Blessing**

As we open the doors to the dawn of this season,  
may the Creator of Our Hearts fill us with Joy,  
may the Light of Christ fill our hearts with Hope,

and may the Spirit of Peace grant our souls unwavering strength and reassurance.

Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Joy to the World”

VU #59 v. 4

\*Please rise as you are able.