

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 15, 2024 – 10:30 am

Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

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

*Introit

Tune: MV #79

Will you come, gather in?

**Come in Joy and with rejoicing.
with the poor and the lowly.**

Song of life – we'll be voicing.

Will you come, gather in?

Bible Presentation *(Placed during the Introit)*

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Hymn

Hope is a Star

VU #7 vs 3

Reader

On this third Sunday of Advent, we come with joy as a community of faith.

We watch, we wait, we wonder.

May we bask in the joyful moments that are ours when we take time to notice -- in the beauty of nature, in the beauty of a simple snowflake with its intricate, always-unique pattern, or in the many snowflakes that comprise the softly falling snow, or in the play and laughter of children.

We embrace joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, Mary's new boy.

As we light the third candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the spirit of joy.

Prayer

God of Joy, on this third Sunday of Advent, we bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in relationships, the joy of gathering in our community of faith and being with those we love, and the joy that awaits us in the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn

A Candle is Burning

VU #6 vs 3

*Call to Worship

Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

We seek time to embrace the joy.

Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

We create opportunities to embody joy.

Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Singing songs that announce joy.

Rejoice in this joyful time of worship.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU #1

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, as we remember moments of happiness, our hearts fill with joy in this Advent season. This joy guides us through the long nights, drawing us closer to your radiant light that is soon to come. Together, like those who've gone before us, we celebrate with grateful hearts, rejoicing in this season and trusting in the promise of even greater things ahead. Amen.

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

Responsive Reading – Isaiah 12:1a-6 *Give Thanks to God*
VU #880

***Hymn** Jesus, Our Brother VU #56 vs 1 & 2

Time for All Ages

Hymn Jesus, Our Brother VU #56 vs 5 & 6

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, Creator of Joy and Wonder, sometimes we get caught up in worries—what's been said, what might come—and we lose sight of the joy right here in the present. Help us shake off those heavy thoughts so that we can open a path straight to our hearts. Show us how to find laughter and light again, leading us from the shadows of concern into the bright hope of a new day. Amen

Assurance of God's Unending Love

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

***Offertory** You Nourish Us VU #545

*Presentation of Offering

*Offertory Prayer

God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light, we give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on earth. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *A Song of Joy*
Luke 3:7-18

Anthem *Once Upon a Christmas*

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

. . . . Generous God,
Send joy to the world again.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** Hail to God's Own Anointed VU #30

*Blessing

***Choral Benediction** Joy to the World VU #59 vs 4

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. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 at 5:30 pm Communion Service

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.

Rosewood Service will be this Thursday, December 19th, at 6:30 pm. The Elders will be assisting Greg with the service.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, December 22nd, are:
Micah 5:2-5a *Out of Bethlehem in Judea will come a leader*
Luke 1:47-55 (VU #898-899) *May sings, “My soul give glory to my God.”*
Hebrews 10:5-10 *Made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus’ body*
Luke 1:39-55 *Mary visits Elizabeth*
These are made available to you should you wish to read them during the upcoming week.

Sunday Worship Cancellations – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made by made on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Social Time – Please join us after the worship service today for a social time. Let’s enjoy a wonderful time fellowshiping together.

Bookworms United – Our December meeting will be held tomorrow, December 16th, at the church at 10 am. We will be discussing *The Midnight Library*. Come and join us and start the new year off with a book.

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

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.

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.

FundScrip – The first order date for 2025 is January 5th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday, December 22nd, at 7 pm. The concert will be presented by Central Queens Musical Friends with featured performers; Ellen Davis, Jodi Whitlock, Braiden Campbell, Wade Campbell, Chris DeRoche, as well as other visiting musical guests. Admission will be a free-will offering. Come and enjoy this special evening filled with musical talent and seasonal favourites. There is no storm date.

Official Board Meeting – The next Official Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th, at 7:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Meeting – Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025. There will be sandwiches and sweets after the worship service; then the meeting will follow that. **The deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 8th**. Please email them to office@cquc.ca. Thank you.

Sunday School Leader & Helpers are Needed – We are still looking for someone to lead Sunday School and others to help out. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off in the wooden box at the church entrance any Sunday or during church office hours.

Office Church Directory – In an effort to keep contact information as up to date as possible, please give Trudy any changes to your contact information. If you would like to be added to our directory or need to update your info, please contact Trudy at office@cquc.ca or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221.

Camp Abegweit is seeking passionate and dedicated individuals for the seasonal roles of Camp Director and Assistant Director. As key leaders in the camp community, you will have the opportunity to shape the experience of the campers and staff while fostering a supportive and engaging environment. Applications can be submitted online at <https://campabby.ca/jobs> or submit an email and cover letter to alexcorbett@campabby.ca.

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh this afternoon, December 15th, at 2 pm. Dino and the Harmonies present an inspirational Christmas concert. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Stratford Community Choir, under the direction of Lori Linkletter, is celebrating 25 years of singing at their Christmas Concert this afternoon, December 15th, at 2:30 pm at Spring Park United Church, 65 Kirkwood Dr. Tickets: \$20/family and \$15/person. Come and celebrate the season with special guests Morgan Saulnier and Jenny Sommers. Handbells under the direction of Kay Linkletter.

A Christmas Carol – An adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story presented by Rev. John Moses this Saturday, December 21st, at 2 pm in the Trinity United Church gym. Admission by donation. Shortbread cookies and hot cider will be served. All proceeds to the Upper Room Food Bank.

