

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

February 4, 2024

10:30 a.m.

5th After Epiphany

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** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

VU #567 v. 1

Call to Worship

To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

We lift up our eyes,

we wait upon the Eternal our God.

How good it is to sing praises to our God.

A song of praise is fitting!

Let us worship God together.

***Hymn** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

VU #374

Prayer of Approach

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in, gather us in the shelter of your love, and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit.

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 147:1–11, 20c VU # 868 Part One

***Hymn** “One More Step Along the World I Go” VU #639 vv. 1, 2, 3

All God's Children

Hymn “One More Step Along the World I Go” VU #639 vv. 4, 5

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Our scripture this morning teaches that God builds up, lifts up, binds up, heals, covers and shelters us. May the gifts that we bring and share extend these ministries.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Will Take What You Offer”

MV #196

***Offertory Prayer**

Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be for the building up and lifting up of your people, for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts, for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need. With these gifts we offer our songs of praise as we hope in your steadfast love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 40:21–31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29–39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy and loving God,

we thank you for the story of Christ's life among us,
offering a pattern for the way we live,
assuring us of your love.
We thank you for moments of quiet and contemplation that
restore us,
and the energy of your Spirit at work in the world and in our own
lives,
even when we are at rest.

In the quiet of these moments we hand over to you
all those concerns stirring within us today:

Anything that has been distracting or hurtful...
Anything that makes us worry or brings sleepless nights...
Our hopes and dreams for the future...
and for the lives of those we love...

We hold before you the needs and hopes of those who need your
comfort, especially remembering those facing grief and loss...

We pray that peace will begin to flourish in places facing war,
famine, and disaster....

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of our world, that those who
manage the world economy find honest, just and generous ways
to ensure the hungry are fed and to help those in desperate
conditions...

We pray that the dignity of each creature be honoured and the
earth itself be treasured...

May peace with justice thrive in the world you love. Amen.

***Hymn** "I Was There to Hear You Boring Cry"

VU #644

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**

May God, Creator of the End of the earth,
Lift up your spirit, bind up your soul,
and renew your strength.

Go with hope in the steadfast love of God.
Amen!

***Choral Benediction** "Halle, Halle, Halle"

VU #958

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.