

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

January 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

3st 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

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.

Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn** "I have Called You by Your Name"

MV #161

Prayer of Approach

God of Many Seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving. We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name. May our songs and prayers be a sweet sound in your ears. May we demonstrate our trust in you through both praise and lament. May our hearts yearn, our spirits stir and our souls wait in holy hope and expectation. Amen.

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 62:5–12

VU #779

***Hymn** “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

VU #299 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

VU #299 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator's abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share and to give.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "We Will Take What You Offer" MV #196

***Offertory Prayer**

Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mark 1:14–20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of fishers and farmers and factory workers,
God of those who work in health care, hospitality and at home,
God of our offices and businesses, our stores and our streets,

our schools and rec centres, of emergency services and entertainers,
we thank you for the many ways we can serve your purposes.
And we thank you for all the ways others offer us goodness to sustain our lives and support our community.
Remind us to offer our thanks to them, not only to you.

God of purpose and promise,
Jesus called his first followers to change their livelihoods and so they did.
Today we pray for those whose work has changed without their choice:
those who have lost their jobs,
those whose businesses are in jeopardy,
and those who face increased demands at work with less support.
Give them courage and perseverance as the future unfolds.
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all churches who bear your Son's name,
whatever tradition or perspective that shapes us,
we thank you for the fellowship we share
and the gifts of the Spirit we receive.
We pray that the differences between us will not blunt our witness
to Jesus and the love he proclaims.
Teach us to value diversity in discipleship
and honour what unites us more than what divides us,
so that the world may see Jesus reflected in all our lives.
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our cities and towns, our villages and reserves,

God of all cultures and clans that shape our identities,
you created us for community.
We thank you for the enjoyment and support
that we find by coming together.
We pray for all those who suffer
because others judge something key to their identities,
language or religion, orientation or status.
Help us learn from each other through our differences,
and recognize the face of Christ in those who challenge our
assumptions.
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all times and situations,
We bear on our hearts concerns for many around us
whose challenges seem overwhelming.
Hear us in this time of silence as we name them before you:

Send your Spirit of healing and hope to embrace those who need
you. We dare to ask all this because we trust in the name of Jesus,
your chosen one. Amen.

***Hymn** “River Running in You and Me”

MV #163

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 the grace of God, the hope of God and the communion of God rest and abide in you and shine through you as you move from here into the waiting world. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.