

**Central Queen's Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada**

January 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

4st After Epiphany

Annual Meeting Sunday

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

Friends, for the sake of love, we are here

Gathering as the body of Christ

Reflecting on our call to be the church

Deciding how best to embody Christ in the world

Striving for justice, compassion,

humility, and peace

Letting the unity of our oneness in Jesus draw us together, let us worship God in heart, soul and spirit.

***Hymn** "We Are One"

VU #402

Prayer of Approach

Called by you, Creator, Christ and Spirit, we seek to be a bold and connected church. We are part of a large group of communities of faith: diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship and daring justice. Help us, loving God, to discern our place in this

**church: as individuals and as a community of faith right here,
right now.**

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 33

VU #760-761

***Hymn** "I'm Gonna Shout, Shout"

MV #183

All God's Children

Music as the Children leave

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Your gifts help transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world here at home and around the world through our community of faith and by joining together through Mission and Service. Let us share our gifts.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Will Take What You Offer” MV #196

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious and loving God, bless the gifts we offer as one body of Christ. We pray they bring healing and hope to everyone whose lives they touch. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not

belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in

tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

While we have experienced challenges this year, we have also experienced many blessings. Let us pray together with thanksgiving for the year gone by and hope for the year ahead.

- **We give thanks for all those who made time to reach out to members of our community this year.** Phone calls, visits, cards, notes sent.
- **We give thanks for leaders** who met this year to give leadership to the work of the church.
- **We give thanks for our Ministry and Personnel committee**, who encouraged us on difficult days and applauded us on our most successful ones.
- **We give thanks for our children's ministry.** The compassionate presence of our leaders who came forward to bring joy and hope into their lives.
- **We give thanks for all those who ensured we continue to share worship together.** We are thankful for *(those who spent time*

cleaning, helping broadcast worship, typing orders of worship, reading scripture, making music and song,).

- **We give thanks for the ways of outreach** (food bank, mitten tree, benevolent fund). Every gift we gave brought a little more love into the world.
- **We give thanks for those who gave generously to our common Mission & Service.** By joining with caring members across the country, we were able to have an enormous impact, helping to transform lives at home and abroad in concrete ways together. We are thankful.
- **We give thanks for all the behind-the-scenes volunteers.** (*those who ensure our finances are in order, who maintain our building, who take minutes at meetings, Chair meetings.*) Together, these humble tasks are the backbone of our church and truly enable our ministry to happen.

God of deep blessing, continue to embrace us in a spirit of gratitude. Let it carry us into the year ahead, choosing to focus on your abundant grace and faithfully responding to your call. We are the church for the sake of love. In every decision going forward, let love be our guide. Amen.

***Hymn “We Have This Ministry”**

VU #510

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**

Let us go from here seeking justice, loving kindness, and living humbly with God

Let us go and be the church for the sake of love.

And now may God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer be and abide with all of us this day, this year, and forevermore. Amen.

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

VU #958

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.