

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

**July 14, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Eighth After Pentecost**

**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.**

**The Community Gathers**

**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** “Breath of God, Breath of Peace” MV #24 v.3

**\*Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 85:8-13)

Let us turn our hearts to hear God speaking to us!

**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace.**

Let us turn our hearts to gain insight from God!

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Let us turn our hearts to receive from God!

**Righteousness will go before them, and will make a path for their steps.**

**\*Hymn** “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” VU #245

## **Prayer of Approach**

**God Among Us, your ways are perfect and your laws are just. We gather today in your name and for your kindom. May it come wherever and whenever two or more gather in your name. May our hearts open and our understanding expand with the vision of righteousness. May our worship please you, transform us, and bear witness to your love.**

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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 24

VU #751

**Hymn** "This Is God's Wondrous World"

VU #296 vv.1, 2

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn** "This Is God's Wondrous World"

VU #296 v. 3

## **Offertory Invitation**

God has planted generosity within our beings. The gifts we receive are not for holding and creating idols, they are for the work of the kingdom, the building of beloved community, and manifesting God's abundance so that all may be well and whole.

**Offertory** "Behold, Behold I Make All Things New"

MV #115

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Giving God, we thank you for the gifts of life and living. We give thanks by bringing our resources to community, to be shared and used for your kingdom, in our ministry and for the world we inhabit. Bless and enable our generosity beyond our imagination. Amen.**

## **Listening for God's Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

God of Word and Wisdom, as we listen to the Scriptures today, enlighten our minds, nurture our souls, embolden our hearts, and stir our minds, so that we may live out your Word in the world you love. Amen.

## **Sacred Word**

### **Ephesians 1:3–14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With

all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

### **Mark 6:14–29**

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to God's Word**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Blessed are you, O God, for all your goodness to us.  
In Christ, we meet your love and wisdom, face to face.  
Through the Holy Spirit, we recognize the abilities and  
opportunities

you create in us and for us to reach out to the world you love.  
We thank you for all the ways friends and families,  
neighbours and strangers,  
reach out to us and to others,  
offering support and kindness,  
speaking up to confront wrongdoing,  
celebrating when achievements bring happiness and healing.

Blessed are you, O God,  
**for all your goodness to us.**

Today we pray for courageous leaders in towns, villages, cities,  
countries and congregations  
who strive to serve with integrity and honesty  
in a world prone to self-interest.  
We pray for those who struggle to create justice  
where it has been compromised,  
and to build understanding in divided communities.  
We remember before you quiet and reliable leaders  
who keep their word and meet their deadlines  
so that we can depend on them in these unsettled times.

Blessed are you, O God,  
**for all your goodness to us.**

We pray for patient church members and community volunteers,  
who work diligently to improve our life together.  
And we pray for the creative, impatient change makers  
who keep challenging us to be bolder and more determined  
in righting wrongs and trying new strategies.  
We pray for the troubled in mind or spirit,  
for the angry and unhappy,

and for those who feel that every day is a struggle.  
Soothe their concerns  
and open their hearts to claim the hope and help you offer.

Blessed are you, O God,  
**for all your goodness to us.**

We remember before you the sick and the dying,  
and the bereaved who must try to put their lives back together  
again.

We pray for those who are looking for better health,  
a fresh start, more stability or a glimpse of hope.  
Draw close to all these who suffer,  
offering your comfort and courage to face whatever comes next.

Blessed are you, O God,  
**for all your goodness to us.**

Receive our prayers, both spoken and unspoken,  
and embrace us all in your love.  
Give us hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf,  
but also what you call us to do on your behalf. Amen.

**\*Hymn** “Called By Earth and Sky”

MV #135

### **Changing of the Light**

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.



## **\*Blessing**

Be assured of God's abiding love for you and all creation.  
Hold fast to hope and share the blessing of the Spirit's direction,  
Christ's presence, and the Sustainer's peace. Amen.

**Choral Benediction**    "Go, Make a Difference"                      MV #209

## **Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.