

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

**July 28, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Tenth 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** “I Can Feel You Near Me God” MV #48 v.1

### **\*Call to Worship**

All God’s works give thanks to the Lord.  
**We will lift up our voices in praise.**

The Lord is near to all who call upon God in truth.  
**We will sing of God’s power and speak of God’s loving kindness.**

Let us worship God who is faithful in all things.  
**Let us praise God’s holy name forever.**

**\*Hymn** “Come to My Heart” VU #661

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Great and Mighty God, we seek your presence among us. We strain to hear your voice as it so often gets drowned out by the noise of the world. We pause to consider your works, your word, and your way. Speak to us now in spirit and in truth. Open your hand and our hearts that we may join in this moment of holy encounter. Forge us as a community committed to follow the path Jesus has marked for us. 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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 14

VU #735

**Hymn** "There's a Spirit in the Air"

VU #582 vv. 1-5

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn** "There's a Spirit in The Air"

VU #582 vv. 6-7

## **Invitation to Generosity**

Generosity encourages us to consider what we have to share beyond our own use. May we exhibit the generosity of the young person found in the gospel narrative that shared their lunch when Philip surveyed the crowd of thousands. The miracle starts with one act of sharing and faith.

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

MV #115

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Sustaining God, receive our offerings and magnify them beyond our imagination for the benefit of your kingdom, this ministry, and your creation. Cultivate a heart of generosity within us and enable us to witness the abundance that can be found in the fragments that remain as testimony to your power at work in us. Amen.**

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

### **Prayer for Understanding**

Speak to us through the Scriptures this day, O God. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us a deeper understanding of your Word for our lives and our times, through Christ, the Living Word.  
Amen

### **Sacred Word**

#### **Ephesians 3:14–21**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Creator, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of divine glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that

surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to this One be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **John 6:1–21**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign

that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

### **Anthem**

### **Sermon**

### **Reflective Music**

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

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of mystery and miracle,  
You offer calm in our storms and challenge in our satisfaction.  
We give you thanks for all the ways we have tasted your  
abundance,

in friendship and fellowship,  
in food on our tables and protection on our streets.  
Amid these everyday satisfactions,  
keep us mindful of those who lack the necessities of life  
and who find each day unpredictable and anxious.  
Like Jesus' disciples caught on the rocky sea, we fear the storms of  
life.

In the unrest around us, call out to us.  
**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

Throughout the world and in our own communities,  
we witness increased divisiveness  
and hatred toward those considered a threat.  
So many people face turmoil in war and upheaval.

In the unrest around us, call out to us.  
**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

In so many countries and in our own province,  
we witness great inequity  
and deep need for even the staples of life.

In the unrest around us, call out to us.  
**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

In our communities, congregations and families,  
we witness uncertainty about the future  
and hope for leaders who are wise and trustworthy.

In the unrest around us, call out to us.  
**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

In our own lives and the lives of so many others,

we witness depression and anger,  
anxiety and despair.

We pray that you will calm the turbulence within and around us.

In the unrest around us, call out to us.

**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

We hold before you in these moments of silence  
the people and places in need of your healing presence this day.

*(Silence)*

In the unrest around us, call out to us.

**Come near to us, and overcome our fear.**

In the face of what all that may trouble us, we thank you for your  
steadfast love and faithful presence, the calm centre we can claim  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*Hymn** "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"

VU #635

### **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**

Go in peace, with Christ as your friend and companion.

So may the peace of Christ attend you day by day,

the power of the Spirit give you the strength you need,



and the grace of God assure you that you will never walk alone.

## **Choral Benediction**

## **Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.