

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

July 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Seventh 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 48)

Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

The earth rejoices on the holy mountain, at the heights and depths of God’s love.

We gather, we observe, we recognize, we ponder the wonders of Creator’s majesty!

God’s name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze. We remember and recount from generation to generation!

Our Guide reigns forever and ever. Praise our God!

***Hymn** “Dear Weaver of Our Lives’ Design” VU #623

Prayer of Approach

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be transformed and transfixed by the mystery of you. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One.

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 48

VU #772

Hymn "Tell me the Stories of Jesus" VU #357

All God's Children

Hymn "Tell me the Stories of Jesus" VU #357

Offertory Invitation

The Psalmist declares that the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. What we offer to God today is part of what God has given us. So give in faithfulness, trusting that God will provide for us and bless our efforts in Jesus' name.

Offertory "Behold, Behold, I make All things New" MV #115

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation. Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of wisdom and warning, we long to hear your word for our times and our lives. By the power of your Spirit, open the Scriptures for us. Prepare us to be challenged and changed as we encounter Christ, your Living Word.

Sacred Word

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even

considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Mark 6:1–13

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no

money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy God,

in Jesus you reached out to so many different people,
with so many different needs, in so many different situations.
We thank you for all the ways you have reached out to us,
in the embrace of prayer,
in the energy of a song,
in thought sparked by a sermon,
and in the wisdom of Scripture or the words of a friend.
Sometimes your healing brings comfort;
sometimes it brings challenge and the call to respond.
Hear us as we seek your comfort and your challenge
for the world, for the church and for our own lives.

Bring comfort to those facing struggles this summer:
those whose crops that are not yielded as they had hoped;
those who cannot find enough workers for their businesses
and workers who can't find secure employment;

those whose housing is insecure,
and any who are losing hope that things will ever improve.

silence

Bring challenge to those whose decisions affect the well-being of the
vulnerable,
to those who guide planning for housing and employment,
and those who respond to the changing climate and lives and livelihoods
at risk.

May your wisdom and compassion guide them.

Bring comfort to those who are lonely or shut in,
and to all who have lost beloved family members or friends in recent days.
Bring comfort to those who feel pain or anxiety without relief,
and those who wait for diagnosis or life-restoring treatment.
Offer peace to those who know there is no treatment
and wait in hope for your eternal welcome.

silence

Bring hope to those who want to make the world a better place,
and to all who work within science, medicine, and the law
to improve the quality of life for all people.
Give them a vision of their work that is both just and courageous,
so that no part of society is neglected or mistreated.
Challenge those who stir up violence and unrest
with a sense of shame for the cost to innocent lives,
and with a deeper understanding of what justice means.

Comfort your church
in places where ministries struggle, whatever the reason.
And challenge your church to renew our vision for ministry
so that our witness is faithful to your all-embracing love,
expressed not only in words but also in the actions we take.
Challenge us to embrace those who differ from us
and yet have a place in your heart and your eternal care. Amen.

***Hymn** "I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say"

VU #626

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

May the power of God increase to saturate you.
May the power of God ignite a new vision in you .
May the power of God inspire you to follow the way of Jesus in
the world.
God in peace and in power to love God and neighbour.

Choral Benediction “Go, Make a Difference” MV 209

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.