

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

June 2, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Second after Pentecost

Baptism

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** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU #400

Call to Worship

We are a people of the water!

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a rain shower, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a wading pool, inspires the delight of children, jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering with wet joy.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanse us, reawakens us.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like little drops, dripping from fingertips to forehead.

Through baptism, the family of faith makes room for one more.

Let us openly worship God.

***Hymn** "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV #161

Prayer of Approach

**O God, we are reminded today that, like us,
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.
In his baptism he claimed us
and freed us from the power of hatred and death.
In baptism we are joined to Christ
and we are joined together in unity.
As a baptized and baptizing community of faith
remind us that:**

**“There is no longer Jew or Greek
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

**In baptism, O God, the Spirit anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of your divine love.
We are marked as your, we follow you.**

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 139:1–6, 13–18 VU #861

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn “Jesus Came, a Child like Me” VU #583

The Statement

Minister

Hear the command of the risen Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;

and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mtt.28:18-20)

In baptism we celebrate God’s love, a love revealed in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, a love which has surrounded us from our beginning.

In baptism we proclaim that God has acted to save us.

God washes us in cleansing waters and brings us into the church, the living body of Christ. When we baptize children, we dedicate them to God, knowing that even though we may fail, God will not; that God will continue,

through the Holy Spirit, the work begun this day,
a work in which life triumphs over death.

Presentation [Clerk of Session]

On behalf of the Central Queens Faith Community,
I present the following (*Child, adult - person*)
for initiation into the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism:
[name of person to be baptized person]

Questions and Promises

Minister: Do you desire to have your child baptized into this
Christian community?

Parents' Response: I do

Minister: Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom
of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and
walking humbly with her God?

Parents' Response: I do

Minister: Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the
life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an
appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you teach your child to honour the faith questions
that belong to him/her/them throughout
his/her/them life?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

[Congregation, please rise.]

Minister: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

Congregational Response

We promise our love support and care.

Profession of Faith

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Let us give our thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

(Water is poured into the font)

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation; by water comes the growth of the earth. Through water you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child, Jesus, was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

The Baptism

N, _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father (creator), and the Son,(redeemer) and of the Holy Spirit (sustainer). **Amen**

N, _____, with the sign of the cross, you are claimed as Christ's forever. **Amen**

N, _____, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness to God who created you. **Amen**

Blessing

May the blessing of the One God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. Amen

Giving of a Candle

Receive this candle. It symbolizes that in baptism we have passed from darkness to light. Shine as a light in this world, to the glory of God.

Presentation of Certificate, Bible & Prayer Shawl [Representative of the Church]

Welcome

Into the household of faith,
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ.

We are inheritors of God's promise.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Baptismal Benediction

VU# 454

May God who creates you give you light.

May God who sustains you make you wise.

May God who protects you give you joy.

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

When we give our tithes and offerings,
we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.
I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “Grant Us, God, the Grace”

VU #540

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

**Let them give you honour and glory as we serve the needs of
your people. And let the called and redeemed of God say,
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

I Peter 2:4-10 The Living Stone and a Chosen People

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** “Just as I Am”

VU #508

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**

Because Christ lives, and the spirit flourishes,
the headlines read:
grace, mercy and peace are yours. This is good news!
Accept it with joy and serve God gladly.
Until we meet again, walk gently in the way.
Dwell in the hollow of God's hands; rejoice serve and pray. Amen

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.