

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

November 17, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Twenty Six 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 gather today by the grace of God, drawn together around living water, a gift that flows from the heart of creation, sustaining and renewing all life.

We come with open hearts, ready to receive the waters of new life, we come to be refreshed - renewed.

As water nourishes the earth, so God nourishes our spirits giving us strength and filling us with new life.

We gather as God's children, thirsty for the Spirit's presence, eager to bathe in God's unconditional love.

The waters of baptism remind us of God's everlasting promise—a symbol of new birth, new beginnings and the life we share as the body of Christ.

We enter this sacred space to worship the One who is the source of life, who calls us by name and welcomes us. We are here to worship our God.

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, you breathe life into dry dust, shaping us with your hands and filling us with your Spirit. Gather us now, lifting us from the dust of our weariness, doubts and fears. Renew us, awaken us, and bring us to the pure light of your love. In your name, we pray.

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 16

VU #738

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

VU #442

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* for initiation into the body of Christ

through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Boone, son of Brittany and Matthew.

Questions and Promises

Minister: Do you desire to have Boone baptized into the Christian Faith?

Parents' Response: I do

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

Parents' Response: I do

Minister: Will you foster for him 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 him to honour the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life?

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

Minister: Will you journey with Boone 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 he 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.

Introduction

Boone, you are wonderful, you are marvelous, you are one of a kind, a child of God, and God loves you lots! It's because of God's love that we baptize you this day.

The Baptism

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

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

N, Boone, 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

As God has generously poured blessings into our lives, let us now share out of our abundance with grateful hearts. May our gifts be used to bring hope, healing, and new life to those in need. Let us give with joy.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?” MV #191

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Generous God, we offer these gifts as a sign of our love and gratitude. Bless them, and use them to bring light, hope, and compassion to the world. May they serve your purpose and spread your grace. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O Lord, teach us your ways and give us the grace to follow them.
Give us eyes to see the world as you do.
Give us hearts to love others as you do.

And give us the wisdom to discern how best to follow Jesus, your Living Word.

Sacred Scripture

1 Samuel 1:4-20

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year after year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?'

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: 'O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.'

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, 'How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.' But Hannah answered, 'No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.' Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.' And she said, 'Let your servant find favour in your sight.' Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things

are about to be accomplished?’ Then Jesus began to say to them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of our past and our future,
God of healing and hope,

we come before you with grateful hearts,
trusting that you walk with us through all the times of our lives.
These are not easy times,
and we thank you for your faithfulness
and your guidance when things don’t seem to go the way we
hope.

We pray today for those who are facing danger and despair:
we remember before you those living with hunger,
communities struggling with the impact of drought, storms and
earthquakes, and all those for whom adequate housing seems

unattainable. We remember people caught up in unrest and violence and those whose lives are directed by forces beyond their control.

silence

We pray for all those working to relieve suffering in the lives of others and those who work to bring justice and peace to the most vulnerable:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all those facing fear or frustration,
wrestling with sorrow or discouragement in any area of their lives:
for those who live with illness or pain...
for those bearing up with chronic conditions or disability...
for those who know the grief and change of bereavement...

silence

We pray for all who work to bring healing and comfort to others,
and agencies which offer support and care to those who suffer:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who feel helpless or hopeless in this present time:
for those struggling to make ends meet or find employment...
for those caught up in misunderstandings or broken
relationships... and for those working through situations of
conflict at home or at work...

silence

We pray for all who offer guidance and support in the midst of
such difficulties and for those who have skills in reconciliation or
mediation:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our past and our future,
God of healing and hope,
help our congregation and churches everywhere engage each day
with faithfulness and creativity.
Where we need correction, show us a new way;
where we need love and encouragement, draw near.
Whatever our challenges, stay with us on our way,
for we are the followers of Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn** “Now Thank We All Our God”

VU #236

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 among us, we depart
in hope. The true headline reads: "grace, mercy and peace are
ours"—good news for all!
Receive it with joy, and go forth to serve God with a glad heart.
And until we meet again, walk gently in God's way.
Rest 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.