

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

**September 29, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**19th 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** “Come All You People”

MV #2

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

We are called together  
**to worship God as the people of God.**

God calls us by name and knows what rests in our minds and our hearts, and calls us:  
**to worship God as the people of God.**

We come yearning to be transformed and redirected to paths of justice and in ways of love so that in truth we can turn to God:  
**to worship God as the people of God.**

God invites us to worship as beloved and loving people and together:  
**to worship God as the people of God.**

**\*Hymn** “Teach me, God, to Wonder”

VU #299

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Triune God, make us one as you are one. As we enter worship, may our harmony extend beyond our songs. May our distinctiveness be welcomed, our identities be celebrated, and**

**our differences be a source of delight. May your church serve as a beacon for belonging and demonstrate the beloved community of the kingdom in your name this day and everyday.**

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 124

VU #848

**Hymn** "Rejoice in the Lord Always"

VU #249 v. 1 X2

### **All God's Children**

**Hymn** "Rejoice in the Lord Always"

VU #249 v. 1 X2

### **Invitation to Generosity**

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Creating God, thank you for hearing our prayer, receiving these gifts, and making them holy for your kindom. Bless and honour every gift, enlarge our territory, and renew the resources as a demonstration of generosity flourishing in your realm.**

**Amen.**

**Listening for God's Word**

**Prayer for Understanding**

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear what you are saying to the church today. Amen.

**Sacred Word**

**Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22**

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my

request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **Mark 9:38–50**

John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was

not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

‘For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

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

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

We bring you our prayers for the world, for people and communities harmed by discrimination and hate, for your church and for those we are in relationship.

Creator God, you created us in your image and set us in the world to live in peace with you and one another. We pray for those who are hurt and hurting because of false beliefs about the superiority of a particular race, class, or gender; let your truth and justice bring healing.

Comforting God, we pray for healing in the communities and families of all who experienced residential schools. Hold in your loving care and bless with strength and courage those who pursue healing, truth and reconciliation: let your grace and power bring new life.

We pray for strength and healing for all Survivors and intergenerational Survivors of residential schools. And we pray for healing for the siblings, family and friends of those were taken from home but did not return, and for the intergenerational impacts the schools continue to cause today in families and communities.

God of transforming love, the wounds of racism continue to this day, imbedded in the fabric of our institutions and governments. Let your compassion and wisdom flow through all public policies and practices. Where power is hoarded, bring your equity and justice. Where racism is resisted, bring your courage and strength to acknowledge and address it. We pray that our communities, churches and country will be places where there is justice and where people advocate for dignity of all creation.

We pray:

...for people whose bodies, minds and souls are in pain and those struggling with physical or mental illness;

...for people who experience violence in their relationships, in their home, workplace, community or country, and for those who have been displaced by war, unjust economic systems, the climate crisis, and ongoing impacts of colonization around the world;

...for people living with housing insecurity: where home is inadequate for the needs of the people it must shelter, is unsafe, unaffordable, or inaccessible;

...for people who are struggling with economic insecurity, barriers to education or employment, unfairness in policies or practices;

...for people at the frontlines of social support systems who daily face the evidence of systemic racism and continue to strive for the safety and dignity of people and creation.

Hear us now as we pray in silence... Amen.

**\*Hymn** "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82

### **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 love of God uphold you as your love of neighbour  
compels you.

May the peace of Christ sustain you as the work of peace inspires  
you.

May the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit direct you as the call  
to community beckon you.

Go, in the assurance of belonging to God and one another in hope  
and joy. Amen.

**Choral Benediction** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU # 424 v. 1

## **Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.