

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

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter

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** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

Come, you who carry questions like sacred stones in your pocket.
Come, you who long to see, to touch, to know.

**We come with our belief and our unbelief,
our hopes and our hesitations.**

Come, you who have stood outside the circle,
unsure if the joy of others could ever be yours.

**We come as we are—uncertain, searching,
and ready to be met.**

Peace be with you—
not the peace of perfect answers,
but the peace of Presence that honours the ache.

We come, trusting that even our doubt is holy ground.

Let us worship the God who meets us in locked rooms and broken
places,
who shows us wounds, not to shame us, but to heal.

**Let us worship Christ, risen and real,
who welcomes us—questions and all.**

***Hymn** “Jesus, Stand Among Us”

VU #396

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One,
you come not with thunder or threat,
but through quiet breath and open hands.**

**You enter our locked rooms—
the rooms of fear, grief, and guarded hearts—
and you speak peace.**

**We do not come today with perfect faith.
We come with threadbare hope,
with doubts that ache like old scars,
with prayers that feel too heavy to name.**

**And still—
you come.**

**In the beauty of gathered community,
in the sacred stillness between words,
in the tenderness of wounded hands,
you come.**

**Meet us here.
Not in spite of our doubts, but *through* them.
Not beyond our questions, but *within* them.**

**And in this hour,
may we touch something of your love—
risen, real, and always reaching 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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 150

VU # 874–875

***Hymn** “like a child”

VU #366 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn “like a child”

VU #366 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

These days hold many reasons to be afraid.
Like the disciples, we too may long to lock our doors
and guard our hearts.

But Christ comes—wounded and risen—
breathing peace, not fear.
And with that breath, we are sent.

So let us open what we have—
our hands, our gifts, our willingness—
as a sign that Love still moves through us,
for the healing of the world.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks” MV #187 v. 1

***Offertory Prayer**

**O God,
receive these gifts—
simple signs of our trust and longing.
Breathe through them your peace,
and send us,
wounded and willing,
to be the presence of Love in the world.**

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O God of Resurrection, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us now, so that as your Word is read and preached, we might hear, understand, and believe. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good—
you meet us in fear and breathe peace.

We thank you for the quiet, faithful ways you provide:
for air and water, for food and shelter,
for work that gives purpose and rest that restores.

We pray for your creation, too often at risk—
teach us to live gently and to honour what sustains life.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

We thank you for the gift of family—
those who raised us, those we've chosen,
those who welcomed us, and those we've had to let go.
We pray for all who grieve broken relationships,
for those who carry pain from within the family circle.
May your peace come not through silence,
but through tenderness and healing.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

We thank you for the gift of friendship—
for those who walk with us in joy and sorrow,
who hold our questions without needing to fix them.
Help us extend that gift
to the lonely, the grieving, and those who feel forgotten.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

We thank you for peace and freedom in this land,
and we pray for deeper wisdom in how we live them out.

We remember those who know neither freedom nor peace—
those in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and all who have fled their homes.
Let us not grow numb, but remain tender-hearted and brave.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

We thank you for your Church, and for this community of faith.
For leaders and volunteers, seekers and servants.
In a world divided, may we be a people who hold space for
wonder, who honour doubt as part of faith,
and who witness to love with wounded hands.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

We thank you for Jesus—
who did not shame the doubter,
but met him with grace and gentleness.
And we thank you for your Spirit—
who still breathes peace into our fear
and sends us out with love.

Your steadfast love meets us, even behind locked doors.

Amen.

***Hymn** “You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen”

VU #185

Changing 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.

***Benediction**

May the Christ who walks through locked doors
walk gently into your fear.

May the Spirit who breathes peace
breathe courage into your questioning.

May your doubt become a doorway,
your wounds a meeting place,
and your life a blessing for the world.

Go now—
with open hands,
with honest hearts,
and with Love as your guide.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be With You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.