

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

**April 6, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Lent V**

**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**

**\*Introit** "Spirit Open My Heart"

MV #79 (Refrain x2)

**Bible Presentation** (Bible is brought forward during the singing of the Introit)

## The Candle of Health

On this 5th Sunday of lent, we lit a candle to pray for wholeness and health for all living things. We rest in the glow of that candle now.

### *Silence*

As we consider how precious health can be, we acknowledge our concerns about the various illnesses that can change so much in our world. We grieve sickness that affects the body, the mind, and the spirit of those who are afflicted by them. We grieve the present state of our natural environment and how its overall decline has changed how we live and how we might live. As the shadows of lent move ever closer, we extinguish our candle of health, just for today, as we commit ourselves to healing what is sick and mending what is broken, so that we can all find wholeness.

*Candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn**    “Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights”                      VU #108 v.1

## Call to Worship

With our ancestors we recall God’s great works.

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

With our ancestors we pray.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

With our ancestors we rejoice.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Let us worship God, in this community and in the company of our ancestors.

**\*Hymn** “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

VU #339

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Holy One,**

**whether our hearts are eager to draw near to you,  
or we stand cautious and uncertain,**

**whether we walk confidently in your guidance,  
or stumble in doubt,  
you are ever present.**

**Open our senses to your nearness,  
and soften our hearts to receive the fullness of your love.**

**May we experience you,  
not as distant,  
but as near,  
transforming us with your constant presence,  
even in our uncertainty.**

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 126

VU # 850

**\*Hymn** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

VU #574 vv. 1, 2

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

VU #574 vv. 3, 4

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Holy Jesus,  
you call us to follow you,  
yet our hearts are restless,  
our attention flickers.**

**One day we walk with you in quiet confidence,  
and the next,  
we are pulled away by the noise of the world  
or the weight of our own desires.**

**Forgive our wavering devotion,  
and in your mercy,  
enable us to steadfast in our commitment to you.**

**May each new day find us more attuned to your call,  
more faithful in our response,  
growing ever more like you  
in our love and loyalty. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace**

In God's boundless creativity, we are ever being recreated, reshaped, and remade. Where we have stumbled, God draws us back, enfolding us in a tender embrace, never to release us. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. In God's love, we are made new.

**\*Sung Response: "Halle, Halle, Halle"**

VU #958

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Generosity**

As we reflect on how to steward the gifts we've received—  
both seen and unseen—

let us remember that in sharing what we have,  
we not only support others,  
but also enrich ourselves.

Through this act of generosity,  
our hearts are expanded,  
and our connection to God and one another deepens.

With gratitude,  
let us offer our tithes and offerings,  
entrusting them to God's work through this church.

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"

VU #544

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Holy One,  
bless these gifts and our lives,  
that we may not hold them in selfish grasp,  
but offer them freely for your kin-dom.**

**Strengthen our hearts to serve with humility,  
to see your presence in the needs of the world,  
and to follow you with unwavering faith,  
even in the face of challenge.**

**May our offerings be a living sacrifice,  
given in obedience and love. Amen.**

**Listening for the Word**

**Prayer for Understanding**

Creator God,  
you spoke, and from the void, light broke forth,  
bringing order to chaos and life to the barren.

your Word became flesh in Jesus Christ,  
dwelling among us, showing us the way.

Speak once more, through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through the Scriptures, both read and interpreted,  
and transform our hearts and minds.

May your Living Word reshape us,  
so that our lives might more faithfully  
reflect Your truth and grace. Amen.

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Isaiah 43:16–21**

This passage speaks of God's power to bring about newness and transformation, calling us to forget past struggles and trust in God's ability to make a way where none seems possible. It also highlights God's care for creation and the people God has chosen to reflect divine praise.

Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honour me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Look, I am doing something new.  
Those who sow in tears reap with joy.

### **John 12:1–8**

**1** Six days before the Passover,  
Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus,  
whom he had raised from the dead.

**2** They gave a dinner for him there;  
Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with  
him.

**3** Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard,  
anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.  
The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

**4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about  
to betray him), said,

**5** "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and  
the money given to the poor?"

**6** (He said this not because he cared about the poor,  
but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used  
to steal what was put into it.)



7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone.  
She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.

8 You always have the poor with you,  
but you do not always have me.”.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
we come to you in prayer, trusting in your constant presence  
through every shift and change of these uncertain days.  
We give you thanks for every sign of your nearness—  
for every unexpected act of kindness,  
for every word of comfort or encouragement,  
for every stand of courage against injustice,  
for every step toward reconciliation amid division,  
and for every moment of healing in the face of sickness and  
danger.

We thank You, O God, for being with us in all things.

We pray for those caught in terror or oppression,  
for those who live in fear,  
and for all who feel overwhelmed by uncertainty.

*Silence*

**May they find courage in your presence.**

We pray for those walking the road of suffering—  
those grieving, sick, or in pain.  
We lift up those with problems that seem endless.

*Silence*

**May they know Your comfort and compassion.**

We pray for the weary—  
those burdened by too many demands,  
those criticized unfairly,  
and those drained by responsibility.

*Silence*

**May they be strengthened by your Spirit.**

O God, we need your healing touch,  
your peace in our hearts,  
and your presence in this world. Amen.

**\*Hymn** “Precious Lord Take my Hand”

VU #670

**\*Benediction**

Friends,  
as you choose each day to follow the Way of Jesus,  
may the path ahead open before you like a quiet morning,  
clear and full of grace.

May you trust that the blessings of God  
are with you—  
in the sunlight, in the stillness,  
in every breath you take.

And may you carry this knowing with you  
this day, and always. Amen.

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

## **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.