

## **Central Queens Pastoral Charge**

### **United Church of Canada**

**August 3, 2025**

10:30 a.m.

8th Sunday 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 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.

### **Hope - Crafting in a Fracture World**

#### **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 Presentation

**\*Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

### Call to Worship

The night is far gone.  
The shadows may cling,  
but the light is breaking through.

**We come as people of the morning,  
draped in hope,  
stepping boldly into the light.**

Here in the ruins, we gather —  
not in despair, but in defiance hope.  
Not in fear, but in faithful longing.

**For God is making all things new.  
And we are summoned to join in.**

**\*Hymn** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

VU #651

### Prayer of Approach

**God of the morning hush and the rising light,  
you speak in silence, and your breath stirs the streets.**

**You meet us where the ruins still smoulder,  
where hopes lie scattered like ash —  
and still, you whisper, “Behold, I make all things new.”**

**Rouse us from our drifting, our dullness, our forgetting.  
Dress us in dawn-colours —  
compassion, courage, truth, and mercy.**

**May your light settle in our bones  
like a song we cannot shake —  
melody of hope, rhythm of grace.**

**In the name of Christ, our awakening light.**

**With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...**

**Lord’s Prayer (Sung)**

**VU #960**

**Responsive Reading Psalm 30**

**VU #757**

**\*Hymn “I Have Called you By Your Name”**

**MV #161 vv. 1, 2**

**All God’s Children**

**Hymn “I Have Called you By Your Name”**

**MV #161 vv. 3, 4**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Even in rubble, there is generosity.  
Even in grief, there is giving.  
Let us offer what we can —**

not to rebuild what was,  
but to build what *could be* —  
the just city, radiant with new light.

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory**      “What Can I Do?”

MV #191

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Light-bearing God,  
*Bless these offerings —*  
coins and bills, time and talent, hope and hurt.  
Use them like mortar between stones,  
shaping a new creation  
where justice dwells and every tear is dried.  
Amen.

**Listening for the Word**

**Prayer for Understanding**

Spirit of the new morning,  
*come now and crack open our sleepy ears.*  
*Let scripture rise in us*  
*not as old words,*  
*but as a live invitation*  
*to walk in the light,*  
*to build with you,*  
*to believe again.*  
Amen.

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Romans 13:11–14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;

let us live honourably as in the day,  
not in reveling and drunkenness,  
not in debauchery and licentiousness,  
not in quarreling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Revelation 21:1–5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
“See, I am making all things new.”  
Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

## **Anthem**

## **Prayer**

**Sermon** “Dawn in the Ruins: Resisting the Night with New Light”

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

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

Let us gather the brokenness of this world  
and place it before the one who makes all things new.

Response (after each petition):

***Awaken us, O God of dawn.***

- For those who walk in literal darkness:  
the unhoused, the displaced, those in war zones...

**Awaken us, O God of dawn.**

- For those caught in inner night:  
the anxious, the grieving, the lonely, the overwhelmed...  
**Awaken us, O God of dawn.**
- For leaders and builders, decision-makers and dreamers,  
may they dress in justice and act with courage...  
**Awaken us, O God of dawn.**
- For the church — your people in every place —  
may we be known by the light we bear,  
not by our buildings or our certainty.  
**Awaken us, O God of dawn.**
- For all who have died —  
those remembered in silence, and those forgotten by the world...  
May they rest in the light of your eternal presence.  
**Awaken us, O God of dawn.**

(Community offer prayers aloud or silently.)

**\*Hymn**     “In Christ There Is No East or West”

VU #606

## 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.

## \*Blessing

May the first light catch in your bones

like a song you cannot forget.

May you rise in its rhythm —

resisting the night,  
dressed in dawn-colours,  
building what is not yet  
but is surely coming.

Go,  
and may  
your hands remember how to build,  
your heart remember how to sing,  
and your spirit how to walk in the light.  
Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** “You Shall Go Out With Joy” VU #884

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.