

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

February 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

6th After Epiphany

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** "Born in Human Likeness"

MV #47 x3

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 1)

Blessed are those who find joy in living with integrity. Reflecting on what truly matters, day and night.

Our Creator watches over the path of those who live with purpose, but the way of the harmful will fade away.

Blessed are those who find joy in living with integrity. Rooting yourself like a tree to bear good fruit when the time is right.

Our Creator watches over the path of those who live with purpose, but the way of the harmful will fade away.

Blessed are those who find joy in living with integrity. Thriving in everything they do, guided by values that last.

Our Creator watches over the path of those who live with purpose, but the way of the harmful will fade away.

Come then to worship, let us be rooted in values that last.

***Hymn** "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

VU #315

Prayer of Approach

God, you create us for community and walk with us. Help us seek your presence today and always. May we recognize you in our breath and in those around us. Strengthen our faith and guide our actions with trust in you and your path of fulfillment, compassion and connection. Let our worship in song and prayer lead to worship in our lives. Transform us from despair to hope, complacency to courage, and indifference to love.

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 1

VU # 724

***Hymn** "Your Love is Amazing"

MV #26

All God's Children

Hymn "Your Love is Amazing"

MV #26

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Blessed are we when we share our gifts for the poor, for justice, for community, for diversity, and for the common good. Woe to us when we confuse abundance with scarcity or generosity with a handout. God has given enough for all to thrive. In sharing, we show faith, trust, and love.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

VU #55 v. 4

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your work to heal the world from pain, injustice and despair. May our resources grow, so all needs are met and your name is praised. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God, source of all wisdom and understanding,
In the midst of our distractions, guide us to listen in stillness.
Amid the noise of many voices, let us hear your Word for our lives
and our times. By your Spirit, lead us to discern and follow the
call of Jesus. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the LORD test the mind

and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17–26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

‘Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their
ancestors did to the false prophets.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of mystery and mercy,
we come before you today, carrying our hopes, dreams, burdens,
and blessings.

We lay before you all that is on our hearts, seeking your comfort,
strength, and guidance.

We are grateful that you hear us when we pray.

Faithful God,
hear our prayer.

God of life and love,
we thank you for meeting us in our times of need, amid challenge
and uncertainty.

We pray for those who are fearful of their future,
for those wrestling with struggles at work or at home.

Help us face our fears with confidence in your unwavering love.

Faithful God,
hear our prayer.

God of hope and healing,
in Jesus Christ, you confront the demons that trouble our minds
and the pain that burdens our bodies.
We pray for those facing health concerns,
and for all who care for the suffering.
Surround them with your steadfast unconditional love.
Faithful God,
hear our prayer.

God of peace and promise,
when our burdens overwhelm us,
your Spirit prays within us with sighs too deep for words.
We lift up all whose burdens seem too heavy to bear:
for the victims of violence and disaster,
for refugees at risk and those seeking a new home,
for those trapped in despair and poverty,
renew their strength with your enduring love.
Faithful God,
hear our prayer.

Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken,
and equip us to do your will.

***Hymn** "Jesus Calls Us"

VU #562

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**

As you go into the world,
remember:
embodied Love has come to join you.
Grace has come to redeem you.
The Spirit has come to empower you.

Go into the world,
bringing hope,
living witness,
proclaiming that God is good,
and still with us. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "I Am the Light of the World"

VU #87 v.1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.