

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

January 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.

2nd 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

Call to Worship

Your love, O LORD, reaches beyond the skies, and your faithfulness stretches to the clouds.

You are the source of life. Fill us with your life!

Your goodness stands as strong as the mountains; your justice runs deeper than the oceans.

You are the source of life. Fill us with your life!

Keep sharing your love with those who trust you and your salvation with those who walk in truth.

You are the source of life. Fill us with your life!

Let us worship the Source of Life, may we be filled with life!

*Hymn "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82

Prayer of Approach

God of wonder, we gather to draw close to you. Your presence strengthens and challenges us, filling us with both comfort and awe. In you, we find resilience and surprising grace. May our

songs, prayers, spoken word and shared lives bring honour to your name. We glorify you and invite your Spirit to renew us with fresh energy, purpose and compassion.

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 36:5–10

VU # 762

***Hymn** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

VU #509 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

VU #509 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. Give with peace that the kin-dom overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “In the Bleak Midwinter” VU #55 v. 4

***Offertory Prayer**

**Holy One, may our gifts honour you and serve the good of all.
Thank you for your generosity and for letting us share in your
work here on earth.**

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Prayer for Understanding

Loving God, your Spirit gives us what we need to listen and take in your Word.
Help us hear your truth with open ears,
and help us understand how to live it with open hearts,

as we walk in the way of Jesus, your Living Word.
Amen.

Isaiah 62:1–5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

John 2:1–11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been

invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God,

Jesus brought joy to lives that needed hope and a fresh start.

We pray for all who long for a new beginning this year:

- Individuals seeking to start over,
- Families working through challenges,
- Groups striving to make a difference,
- Refugees creating homes in new places,
- Students and teachers starting a new semester,
- Businesses and congregations rebuilding.

Silence

Show each one how much they matter to you.

Renew their courage and determination to move forward.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God,

The story tells us that Jesus transformed water into wine,
reminding us you can do extraordinary things through ordinary lives.

We pray for all who give their time and care to help others:

- Volunteers making a difference in our community,
- Elected leaders and government workers carrying heavy responsibilities,
- Advocates for justice and those raising awareness for social and environmental needs.

We also pray for each other and the good work we take on with fresh resolve this year.

Show us how our hands can become your hands, guided by your Spirit.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God,
Jesus met suffering with compassion, offering healing and hope.
We lift to you those whose lives are weighed down by sorrow, despair,
or illness:

- Those mourning losses,
- Those facing critical illness or tragedy,
- Communities rebuilding after disasters,
- And all burdened by problems that feel endless.

Silence.

Wrap them in your comfort and courage,
and show us how we can help.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
thank you for the courage and strength to follow Christ
in both joyful and difficult times.

Thank you for the gifts we find in each other,
gifts that sustain us as we plan for ministry
in these ever-changing times.

Help us trust in your love and renew us with your Spirit
so we can embrace the opportunities you set before us
to share the grace and mercy we know in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** “I Have Called You by Your Name”

MV #161

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 presence of God fill your hearts and guide your steps.

May you drink deeply from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness.

May the fruit of the Spirit nourish you as you walk the path of Jesus.

May your lives proclaim the name of God through all you say and do.

We go in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbour.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “I Am the Light of the World”

VU #87

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.