

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

January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

3rd 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 (3)

Call to Worship

God's Spirit has brought us here to this moment.

We've come to listen and be shaped by God's message of love.

Right now, the past and future come together in this holy moment.

May the same Spirit that worked through Jesus work through us, too.

May God's dream of a world where everyone thrives fill our hearts.

And may we live it out every day!

***Hymn** "Hark the Glad Sound"

VU #29

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, pour out your Spirit of Love on us again. Shape our hearts, minds, and lives to share your good news. Renew our passion for your dream of a world where no one is left in need and every burden is lifted. Fill us with courage and compassion

to reach out to anyone who's been pushed aside or hurt by life. Bless and strengthen us so we can be a blessing and a source of strength for others. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who showed us your holy vision of love. 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 19

VU# 740–741

***Hymn** “We Are One”

VU #402 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn “We Are One”

VU #402 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God's holy generosity is all around us, bringing joy and life. We're invited to share in this lasting delight. With open hearts, let's offer our gifts to God with thanks and praise.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "In the Bleak Midwinter" VU #55, v.4

***Offertory Prayer**

We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Loving God, all wisdom and truth come from you.
As we hear your Word and reflect on it, guide us with your Spirit.
Move in us and among us, we pray. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4:14–21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of life, God of love.

You created us and set us in relationship with each other:
in families and neighbourhoods,
in churches and communities,
in cultures and nations.

We give you thanks for the rich gifts of arts and culture,
of home life and community celebration
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
you call us to live together in peace and unity.
In this Week of Prayer for Christian unity,
we pray that your Spirit will create understanding and co-
operation among all who bear Christ's name.
Help us share our gifts of self with each other
so that churches within our area may flourish
and our common outreach will find new energy.
Lead us to embrace those of other faiths and no faith
so that, together, we may be a blessing in the world you love.

God of healing and hope,
we pray for our communities and our nation.
Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment,
show us how to work for reconciliation.
Inspire our leaders at every level of community life
to work together for the care of the most vulnerable
and to restore the goodness of our common life.
Make us generous citizens and careful stewards
of the land you entrust to us together.

God of justice and mercy,
we pray for the world you love, the world Christ died to redeem,
so deeply divided by religious and political animosities,
by ancient bitterness and current conflict.
Encourage world leaders to work for peace and understanding,
especially in places torn apart by violence,
by poverty, by hunger and by the effects of natural disasters.
May the hope that Jesus embodies encourage us all to work for
positive change.

God of courage and comfort,
we remember those of our congregation and community
in need of your special attention today....
people and local concerns.

Use us as agents of your healing and hope. Amen.

***Hymn** “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours”

MV #171

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 Spirit that anointed Jesus rest upon you and renew you.
May the grace that flowed through Jesus fill and empower you.
May the good news proclaimed by Jesus echo through your words
and actions.
And may the world see through you that the time of God's favour
is here.

Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

*Choral Benediction "I Am the Light of the World" VU #87 v.1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.