

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

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday After Christmas

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 "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (Chorus)

Call to Worship

Wisdom lifts her voice in praise, proclaiming her glory among her people.

She calls forth worlds and fills the night sky with the brilliance of stars.

Wisdom declares her strength and reveals her power in the presence of her people.

She empowers her children and brings peace to all nations.

Wisdom lifts her voice in praise, proclaiming her glory among her people.

She offers grace and redemption, unveiling the mysteries of the divine. Praise be to Wisdom!

*Hymn "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

VU #79

Prayer of Approach

God, you are present with us in all your fullness, affirming every part of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we discover joy and fulfillment. In you, we find peace and hope. In you, we rise to embrace a new day and a new way of living.

Shape us during this time together so that we may reflect your goodness and your way of life.

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.**

Psalm 147:12–20

VU #868-869 Part One

***Hymn “The First Nowell”**

VU #91 vv. 1-3

All God's Children

Hymn “The First Nowell”

VU #91 vv. 4-6

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Let us give a portion of our abundance to support God's creative and liberating work in the world. May our resources be used to honour God and reflect the generosity of the One who led by example.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory**

***Offertory Prayer**

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Prayer for Understanding

O God, through your Word all things came into being. In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh in Christ Jesus and lived among us. As we hear your written Word, help us to see your truth and to testify to it, that all might believe in your Living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jeremiah 31:7–14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

John 1:1–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and

truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all time and space,
as we gather in prayer, we recognize that our lives are but small
details in the vast expanse of your universe.
So we thank you for attending to the details of our lives.
We thank you for the year just past,
for walking through the good days and the hard days with us.
Thank you for friendships and relationships that sustain us in
uncertain times.
We pray for your Spirit to lead us into the future and open new
opportunities for ministry and service through our congregation.
In gratitude
our hearts kneel before you, O God;

receive our humble prayers.

God of all people and places,

The year just ending has held sorrows for so many in our community and around the world.

We remember dear ones who have died and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness.....

silence

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health, in their families or at work.....

silence

Support each one who needs you close by.

In compassion

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

receive our humble prayers.

God of light and love,

As we face the year ahead, so much around us is still uncertain.

We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face. Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss, economic hardship or changing circumstances....

silence

Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices must be made in anticipation

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

receive our humble prayers.

God of community and commitment,

we pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.

Strengthen us as a congregation to be a lively and committed witness to your love.
Help us reach out to our community in faithfulness and service.
Guide leaders in our nation and around the world so that justice and peace may prevail, especially in troubled places and vulnerable lives.
Show us all how to honour and protect your creation, even when that takes sacrifice on our part.
Receive our humble prayers we ask. Amen.

***Hymn** “In the Darkness Shines the Splendour”

VU #92

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, remember that you are a branch of righteousness, called to watch over the vulnerable and the overlooked. Let compassion shape your heart, especially for those struggling and in need of hope. May love and new life be born as we share God's warmth, peace, and care with the world. Amen.

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.