

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

July 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

7th 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

Come, beloved of God —
from the streets where fear walks boldly,
from the silence that wounds as deeply as words.
Come into the presence of the One whose love casts out fear.

**We come seeking God's healing,
God's justice,
God's mercy deep enough to remake the world.**

The Holy One does not stand apart from suffering —
God kneels in the dust,
binds the wounds,
and dares to call enemies neighbours.

**Come, let us worship God,
whose compassion is stronger than hatred,
whose mercy moves through us still.**

Prayer of Approach

**God of mercy and mystery,
you meet us on every road —
whether we come burdened or bold, doubtful or devoted.**

**You are the One who sees beyond every label,
who calls us not by fear, but by name.
You gather us into the circle of your compassion,
wide as the sky, strong as the roots beneath our feet.**

**Draw near to us now,
and draw us near to you.
Still our minds, open our hearts,
and awaken our spirits to your holy presence.**

**In this time of worship,
may your Word be alive,
your love be known,
and your justice take root in us once again.**

**Through Christ, our companion on the road, we pray.
Amen.**

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

Lord’s Prayer (Sung)

VU #960

Responsive Reading Psalm 85

VU #802

***Hymn** “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

VU #357 vv. 1 - 3

All God’s Children

Hymn “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

VU #357 vv. 4, 5

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God is the giver of every good gift.
Out of divine abundance, we have been blessed —
not for our sake alone,
but so that we might be a blessing in return.

In a world gripped by fear,
our generosity is a witness to God’s abundance.
In a time of division, our giving becomes an act of faith —
that love is stronger than hate,
and that God’s grace can still transform lives.

Let us offer now our gifts to God.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?”

MV #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**Generous and loving God,
we bring these offerings as signs of our trust in you.
May they become instruments of healing and hope —**

**used for the building of your kingdom,
where enemies become neighbours,
and justice rolls down like water.**

**Make us faithful stewards of all you have given,
and courageous followers of Christ,
who walks with the wounded
and calls us to do the same.**

**In your holy name we pray,
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Living God,
you are not silent in the face of suffering.
You speak through the prophets and the parables,
through story and Spirit,
through the cries of the wounded
and the courage of those who stop to help.

Open our hearts as your Word is read.
Let us hear not only what was spoken long ago,
but what you are saying to your people now.

Speak to us through Scripture.
Speak to us through silence.
Speak to us, O God,
and help us listen with love.

Through Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Luke 10:25–37

25 A scholar of the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?”

26 Jesus answered, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

27 The scholar replied, “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind—and your neighbour as yourself.”

28 Jesus said, “You’ve answered correctly. Do this and you’ll live.”

29 But the scholar, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: “And who is my neighbour?”

30 Jesus replied, “There was a traveller going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell into the hands of robbers. The traveller was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down that road and saw the traveller lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side.

32 Likewise, there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveller and passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, who was journeying along, came upon the traveller and was moved with compassion.

34 The Samaritan approached the traveller and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the

injured person on a donkey, went straight to an inn, and took care of the person.

35 The next day the Samaritan took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, 'Look after this person, and if there's any further expense, I'll repay you on the way back.'

36 "Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the person who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

37 The answer came, "The one who showed compassion."

Jesus replied, "Then go and do the same."

1 John 4:16–21

16 We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

17 Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear — because our relation to this world is just like Christ's.

18 There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear: to fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

19 We love because God first loved us.

20 If you say, "I love God," while hating your sibling, you are a liar, since those who do not love the sibling they can see cannot love the God they have not seen.

21 The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers as well.

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon “Roots of Compassion: Love's Answer to the Machinery of Hate”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Let us bring our prayers to God,
who sees the wounds of the world
and never turns away.

Gracious God,
you are our refuge and strength
in every age of trouble.
We lift to you a world fractured by hatred,
and ask for the healing only you can bring.

Lord, in your mercy — hear our prayer.

We pray for those who live in fear —
for neighbours targeted because of race, religion, gender, or
identity.
Protect them with your sheltering presence,
and awaken us to speak and act with holy courage.

Lord, in your mercy — hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have been seduced by hatred,
whose hearts have been twisted by lies.
Break the power of hatred with the light of your truth.
Call them into repentance,
and lead them toward your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy — hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work for peace —
for interfaith leaders, community organizers, teachers,
and all who embody your justice and love.
Strengthen them, guide them, and renew their hope.

Lord, in your mercy — hear our prayer.

We remember those close to us —
those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or struggling...

(Pause to name silently or aloud)

Hold them in your tenderness, O God.
May your healing flow like a river.

Lord, in your mercy — hear our prayer.

God of fearless love,
let your church rise with compassion that is bold,
a witness that is clear,
and a welcome that is wide.
Through Christ our Lord we pray,
Amen.

***Hymn** “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

VU #356

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 God who walks the roads of suffering
walk beside you now.

May Christ, the wounded healer,
place God's mercy in your hands.

May the Spirit stir in you
a courage deeper than fear,
a vision wider than hatred,
and a love that crosses every line drawn to
divide.

May you go forth —
rooted in God's compassion,
anchored in holy truth,
and unafraid to kneel in the dust where love is needed most.

And may the blessing of the God of mercy,
the Christ of the road,
and the Spirit of holy fire
be with you, and remain with you,
now and always. Amen.

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

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**