

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

June 29, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Third 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.

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, let us enter the stillness where the Spirit breathes —
beyond noise, beyond striving, into the deep heart of freedom.

**We come as people longing for freedom —
not a freedom of isolation, but of love that binds and heals.**

On this Canada Day weekend,
we give thanks for the land beneath our feet —
its beauty, its abundance, its ancient wisdom.

**We remember this land holds many stories —
some filled with pride, others marked by pain.
We gather in humility, ready to listen, ready to learn.**

The Spirit meets us here —
with gifts not of power, but of peace.

**Let us walk in step with the Spirit:
love, joy, patience, kindness —
freed not for ourselves alone,**

**but for the healing of one another,
and of this land we share.**

***Hymn “Let Us Build a House”**

MV #1

Prayer of Approach

**O Holy One,
on this day when a nation reflects on its story,
we pause to remember the land beneath our celebrations:
ancient, living, wounded, and wondrous.
We give thanks for the beauty that stirs us —
rock and river, field and forest,
and for the people whose roots run deep in this soil.**

**But you have not called us to shallow pride.
You have called us to freedom —
not to do whatever we please,
but to live in love,
to serve with humility,
to walk gently where others have walked before.**

**Breathe your Spirit into us now.
Quiet the noise within.
Let joy rise where it has been buried.
Let kindness take root in our bones.**

**Let freedom become the song of our lives —
sung not just for ourselves,
but for all who seek shelter, dignity, and hope.**

**In your mystery,
in your mercy,
we begin again.**

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

Lord's Prayer (Sung)

VU# 960

Responsive Reading Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20

VU# 791

***Hymn** “This Is God's Wondrous World”

VU# 296 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn “This Is God's Wondrous World”

VU# 296 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

On this Canada Day weekend,
we honour the beauty of this land,
and the freedom we're called to live.

Not a freedom of holding back —
but of giving, serving,
and walking gently with one another.

Let us give, then,
as those who belong to each other —
with open hands and hopeful hearts.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “You Nourish Us”

VU #545

***Offertory Prayer**

**Spirit of Life,
receive these gifts as seeds —
small acts of faith,
offered in freedom,
planted in hope.
May they bear fruit far beyond our knowing.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of Wisdom,
as we listen today,
open the chambers of our hearts.
Let the words we hear
fall gently,
like rain on thirsty earth —
awakening, nourishing, and stirring new life.

May we not only hear,
but truly receive —
the gift of freedom,
the call to love,
and the courage to follow.

In quiet trust, we wait.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Galatians 5:1, 13–25 (NRSV)

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,

21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9:51–62 (NRSV)

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him,

53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

55 But he turned and rebuked them.

56 Then they went on to another village.

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

60 But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

61 Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say

farewell to those at my home.”

62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Anthem

Prayer (Only for my use)

May the words spoken now
meet us where we truly live —
beneath the noise,
beneath the surface.

And may our listening
be spacious enough
for God to speak
and us to hear.

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy Spirit, you breathe freedom into every corner of our lives—
free us from fear, free us from division, free us to love as Christ
loves.

We bring before you the needs of our world, our country, and our
hearts.

For all who suffer illness,
those whose bodies are weary, minds are troubled, and spirits are
heavy —
may your healing presence bring comfort and hope.

Silence

Christ sets us free; let us live in that freedom.

For those struggling with loneliness, poverty, or injustice,
especially here in our communities across Canada,
may your Spirit give strength and courage to keep moving
forward.

Silence

Christ sets us free; let us live in that freedom.

For those who hope beyond hope —
for peace where there is conflict,
for reconciliation where there is pain,
for justice where there is oppression —
may your kingdom come in power and tenderness.

Silence

Christ sets us free; let us live in that freedom.

For our land, Canada — its beauty, its people, its challenges —
may we be people who walk gently on this soil,
seeking truth, embracing diversity, and working for healing.

Silence

Christ sets us free; let us live in that freedom.

For ourselves, gathered here,
that we might embody the fruits of your Spirit —
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control —
so our lives witness to the freedom you have given us.

Silence

Christ sets us free; let us live in that freedom.

This is our prayer.

Amen.

***Hymn “O for a World”**

VU #697

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 you go now in the freedom of Christ —
a freedom not of empty release,
but of love deeply rooted and gently fierce.

May the Spirit plant in your heart the fruit of kindness,
the joy that sings beneath every struggle,
and the peace that whispers in the quiet moments.

Walk gently upon the earth,
with courage to serve,
and a soul wide open to the beauty of this day.

And may the blessing of belonging —
to each other, to this land,
and to the Divine —
be your constant companion.

Go in peace, and live free.

***Blessing**

May love grow in you like a steady flame,
and may freedom lead your steps
into joy, peace, and kindness.

And in every moment, may you know —
God's presence walks beside you,
quiet, sure, and always near.

Now and always. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Peace Be With You"

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.