

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

March 2, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

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 x3

Call to Worship

The call of the God has gathered us here today, like a mighty wind blowing through the trees.

We've been called to lift our voices, to pray and to praise.

We are called to come together, to wonder in the presence of the Divine, with hearts wide open.

Let the light of Love burn in us, bright as a lantern on a dark night.

May it warm our souls, and change us, like the sunrise turning night into day.

And may that light shine out from us, a beacon for all who wander in the dark.

In worship may we understand the call to be a beacon for all.

***Hymn** "I Can Feel You Near Me God"

MV #48

Prayer of Approach

God of the mountaintops, the valleys, and every place in between, we give thanks for meeting us where we are.

We give thanks for leading us to this sacred space, where prayer and renewal flow like living water.

Enlighten our minds, ignite our hearts, and prepare us to receive your living Word of Love.

Let it shine in us, and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy for all to follow.

May the same transfiguring power that was revealed in Jesus Christ also burn brightly within us, for the healing and good of the world.

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 99

VU #819

***Hymn** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145 vv.1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145 v.3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

On the Mount of Transfiguration, God's love shone through Jesus, calling us to love as he did. We are invited to share our gifts and experience heavenly joy. May we offer all to the One who transforms with love.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

VU #544

***Offertory Prayer**

O Spirit of Life, shine upon us, again and again, that we may become the blessing you dream.

Awaken us ever more deeply to your holy mystery, your sacred call.

Bless these humble gifts we offer, that they may carry your love to others, and ignite the light of new beginnings.

By this, and through all that we cannot name, transfigure us and

the world anew.

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O Light of the World,

illuminate our hearts and minds this day.

Open us to the wisdom hidden in the words we are about to hear,
that they may stir our spirits, awaken our souls,
and guide us into deeper truth.

Let your light shine, transforming us with every breath.

Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 34:29–35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until

he came out; and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the Lord.

Luke 9:28–43

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child.

Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with

you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions.

But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Revealing God,
you bless us with your presence and wisdom,
and we stand in awe of the wonders of your love.
You created a world that sings your majesty,
and sent your Son to show us how to live with open hearts.
Your Holy Spirit walks beside us, guiding our steps.
Thank you for opening our eyes each day to your nearness.
Help us to see you not only in mountaintop moments,
but also in the quiet of our daily tasks and in times of struggle.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God,
So much in this world longs for the transformation only you can
bring.
Where there is violence, bring peace;
where there is hunger, bring plenty;
where there is confusion, bring clarity;
where there is chaos, bring harmony;

where hearts are heavy, bring comfort;
where pain is deep, bring healing.
Move the hearts of the rich to share with the poor,
and call the powerful to act with justice for the vulnerable.
Stir in us the will to care for the earth,
and to honour the delicate balances within your creation.
Hear us now as we lift up the names and situations that weigh
upon our hearts:

silence

Hear the cries of all who suffer,
and bring each one the hope of new life with you.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God,
we pray for your Church across the world
and for our own congregation.
Give your people strength to shine
wherever there is darkness or despair.
Bless each community with wisdom and vision,
as we face the changes around us.
Renew our hearts and imaginations
to discover new ways to serve and love in your name.
Fill us with joy as we seek your presence,
and delight in the mystery of your love.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We ask all these things through Christ Jesus,
who showed us your will through revolutionary love.

***Hymn** “We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding” VU #104

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 holy radiance of transfiguration shine upon you,
lighting the wick of your life with endless flame.
May it burn with joy, hope, and love,
and fill the world with its warmth.
May the voice of Jesus speak not just to your ears,
but to your heart,
shaping your voice for the healing of the world.
Blessings upon you all! Amen and Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.