

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

May 18, 2025

10:30 a.m.

5th of Easter

Baptism

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 asked him, "Who are you?" he said, " I am the light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible taken forward)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

Come, people of God—young and old, seekers and faithful, weary and wondering.

We come, for God calls us by name and welcomes us with open arms.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them."

We come with the openness of children, ready to be held in grace, ready to be blessed.

Here, in this place, the water flows, the Spirit stirs, and the community of faith rejoices.

We come to remember our baptism, to celebrate new life, and to walk together in love.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved,
who gathers us in, and who makes all things new.

Thanks be to God! Let us worship with joy!

***Hymn** "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12

Prayer of Approach

**Loving and welcoming God,
you call us by name and draw us close,
as a parent gathers their children.
In this time of worship, open our hearts to your presence.
Remind us that we belong to you—
not because of what we have done,
but because of who you are:
gracious, kind, and full of mercy.
As we witness your promises in baptism,
renew us by your Spirit.
Make us ready to follow Jesus with joy,
to love one another as he has loved us,
and to walk in your ways all our days.**

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 148

VU #871

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

VU #644

The Statement

Minister

Hear the command of the risen Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have
commanded you and remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.” (Mtt.28:18-20)

In baptism we celebrate God’s love, a love revealed in the life,
death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
a love which has surrounded us from our beginning.
In baptism we proclaim that God has acted to save us.
God washes us in cleansing waters and brings us into the church,
the living body of Christ.
When we baptize children,
we dedicate them to God, knowing that even though we may fail,

God will not; that God will continue,
through the Holy Spirit, the work begun this day,
a work in which life triumphs over death.

Presentation [Clerk of Session]

On behalf of the Central Queens Faith Community,
I present the following *child* for initiation into the body of Christ
through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Daniel Edward, child of Alana and Scott Anderson.

Questions and Promises

Minister: Do you desire to have **Daniel Edward** baptized into the
Christian Faith?

Parents' Response: I do

Minister: Will you encourage **Daniel Edward** to learn from the
wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy,
and walking humbly with his God?

Parents' Response: I do

Minister: Will you foster for him an appreciation for the
life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an
appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you teach him to honour the faith questions
that belong to him throughout
his life?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you journey with **Daniel Edward** to discover the
wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.

[Congregation, please rise.]

Minister: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life
of our community, opening our table and hearts to
those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the
ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who
witness and celebrate this sacrament,
promise your love, support, and care
to **Daniel** being baptized as he lives and grows in
this Christian community?

Congregational Response

We promise our love support and care.

Profession of Faith

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Let us give our thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

(Water is poured into the font)

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and,
within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your
Spirit hovered at creation; by water comes the growth of the earth.
Through water you led the children of Israel to freedom.
In the waters of the Jordan your Child, Jesus, was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Daniel Edward, you are wonderful, you are marvelous, you are one of a kind, a child of God, and God loves you lots! It's because of God's love that we baptize you this day.

The Baptism

N, **Daniel Edward**, I baptize you in the name of the Father (creator), and the Son,(redeemer) and of the Holy Spirit (sustainer). **Amen.**

N, **Daniel Edward**, with the sign of the cross, you are claimed as Christ's forever. **Amen.**

N, **Daniel Edward**, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness to God who created you. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the blessing of the One God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. Amen

Giving of a Candle

Receive this candle. It symbolizes that in baptism we have passed from darkness to light. Shine as a light in this world, to the glory of God.

Presentation of Certificate, Bible & Prayer Shawl [Representative of the Church]

Welcome

Into the household of faith,
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ.

We are inheritors of God's promise.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Baptismal Benediction

VU# 454

May God who creates you give you light.

May God who sustains you make you wise.

May God who protects you give you joy.

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

As we remember God's gift of grace in baptism,
let us respond with gratitude.

May our offerings reflect our love,
and our commitment to Christ's way of love and acceptance.

Your morning offering will now be presented.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory "We Give Our Thanks"**

MV #187 v.1

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Generous God,
we thank you for your boundless grace and the gift of new
life.**

**Bless these offerings, and bless us too—
that our lives may be signs of your love,
and our gifts may help build your kingdom of peace,
hope, and welcome for all.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of wisdom and mystery,
as we prepare to hear your Word,
open our hearts to the depth of its truth.
Let the Scriptures stir our souls,
not as mere words, but as the living breath of your Spirit.
May we receive what you have to reveal to us today,
and may your Word transform our lives,
drawing us closer to your love and wisdom.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Acts 11:1-8

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard
that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers

criticized him,

3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”

4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,

5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.

7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’

8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

Mark 10:13–16

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Anthem

Sermon *Let the Children Come: A Story at the Water*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Gracious and loving God,
we give thanks for the gift of new life—
for the quiet growth of the earth,
the unfolding of each new day,
and the tender care that surrounds all creation.
We are grateful for the life you have planted in each of us,
calling us to bear fruit in your love.
Today, we give thanks for the baptism of Daniel,
and for his family who walk beside him,
as he begins this new journey of faith.

We thank you, O God, for your sustaining care.

Today, we lift before you the world,
broken and weary, yet held in your ever-present care.
We pray for those who are suffering—
for the sick, the lonely, the oppressed—
that they may find comfort and healing
in the shelter of your embrace.
We hold in prayer the nations of the earth,
where conflict and division wound your people,
and we ask for your peace to enter those places of unrest.

We lift our hearts to you, O God, and ask for your healing peace.

We remember those who are grieving,
and pray that they may know the quiet peace of your presence,
a peace that surpasses understanding.

May the spirit of new life—
the life that renews, restores, and redeems—
flow into our hearts and into the world,
awakening love and compassion in each of us.

Renew us, O God, and fill us with your love.

Guide us to care for this earth and all its inhabitants
with the tenderness that reflects your own loving care.

In your infinite mercy,
we place our prayers,
trusting that you hear, you hold, and you heal.

We trust in your mercy, O God. Amen.

***Hymn** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

VU #333

Changing of the Light

See the light is now changed. It is taken on a different form.

But it is still here! It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.

Go **cradle** an share the light. **Share** with others as you go about
your daily living. Go and **live into the light**, be carriers of the light.

The world is waiting!

***_Blessing and Benediction**

May the God of new life,
who calls us all by name,
bless you with the fullness of love and grace.
May the Spirit guide you on your journey,
holding you close in every moment,
and may the peace of Christ dwell in your heart
today and always.

Amen.

Go in peace,
to love and serve the Lord,
and may the joy of new life in Christ
go with you, now and forevermore.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be With You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.