

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

November 2, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Twenty first 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** "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV #79

Call to Worship

Come down from your trees of distance and defense.

We come, ready to be seen, ready to be found.

The Holy One is passing through our streets,
looking up, calling us by name.

We hear the voice that says,

"Come down — I would stay with you today."

Here, there is no crowd to impress,
no ladder to climb, no need to hide.

Here, we are met with kindness and called beloved.

Let us come as we are — curious, hopeful, human.

**For Love has already set the table and
waits for us to come home.**

***Hymn** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

VU #232

Prayer of Approach

**Holy Presence,
You move through our streets disguised as kindness,
You stop beneath our trees and see us hiding.
You do not scold or shame —
you simply say, “Come down, I’d love to stay with you today.”**

**So we climb down —
awkward,**

uncertain,

**brushing off the bark of fear and pride.
We come to this place of grace,
where belonging comes before belief,
and love always gets the first word.**

**Be among us now —
in the laughter,**

the silence,

**the honesty of our gathering.
Turn this hour into a homecoming.
Amen.**

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.**

**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 119:137–144

VU #841

***Hymn** “God Really Blesses Me”

AGCS #14 v. 1

All God's Children

Hymn “God Really Blesses Me”

AGCS #14 v. 2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, something within him shifted.
He didn't give because he was told to —
he gave because joy had taken root.

That's how generosity works:
it's not a transaction; it's a celebration.
A way of saying, *"This table has room for everyone."*

So we give — not out of guilt or duty —
but out of gratitude for all that calls us back to life.

Let us bring our gifts,
and let them become bread for others,
hope for strangers,
and love made visible in this world.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "We Praise You, O God"

VU #218 v.1

***Offertory Prayer**

**Generous Spirit,
what we offer now is small beside your abundance,
yet it carries the heartbeat of our gratitude.**

**Take these gifts —
coins and bills, yes — but also time, compassion, and
courage.**

**Bless them into stories of healing,
into suppers shared,
into moments when someone realizes they belong.**

**May our giving be less about what we lose,
and more about what we find:
a shared table, a living faith,
a world made whole again.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of surprising encounters,
we come now to listen —
to words ancient and alive,
to a story we think we know.
But you have a way of turning familiar stories upside down.
So tilt our hearts toward wonder,
open our minds to new light,
and let these words become living bread for us today.

In listening, may we hear our own names called.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4 (NRSV)

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12 (NRSV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters,
as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly,
and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God
for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and
the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you,
asking that our God will make you worthy of his call
and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith,
so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,
and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Luke 19:1–10 (NRSV)

He entered Jericho and was passing through it.
A man was there named Zacchaeus;
he was a chief tax collector and was rich.
He was trying to see who Jesus was,
but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short
in stature.
So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him,
because he was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,
“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down;
for I must stay at your house today.”
So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.
All who saw it began to grumble and said,
“He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”

Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,
“Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor;
and if I have defrauded anyone of anything,
I will pay back four times as much.”

Then Jesus said to him,
“Today salvation has come to this house,
because he too is a son of Abraham.
For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon “Come Down From That Tree — Supper’s Ready”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the open door,
we give thanks for moments when grace comes home to us —
for friendships rekindled,
 for forgiveness that grows where bitterness once lived,
 for laughter that chases away the heavy things.

God of grace, draw us home to one another.

We thank you for every Zacchaeus moment —
when we dare to come down from our careful heights
and find you waiting with open arms.

God of grace, draw us home to one another.

We pray for those who long to be seen —
the lonely, the weary,
the ones who hide their hurt behind polite smiles.
May love find them where they are,
and call them gently by name.

God of compassion, see them and hold them close.

We pray for this world of ours —
still learning what it means to belong to one another.

Where there is greed, sow generosity.

Where there is cynicism, plant hope.

Where there is hunger — in body, mind, or spirit —
set the table wide enough for all.

God of justice, make us your partners in peace.

And when the day is done,
and the dishes are washed,
may we rest knowing we were part of your feast of life.

God of love, keep us thankful, humble, and kind. Amen.

***Hymn** “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour”

VU #665

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 road rise to greet you with kindness,
may the wind carry away your fear,
may your table be full and your laughter honest,
and may the One who calls you by name
walk beside you all your days.

Go in peace —
and may your life be a feast of grace. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Wherever You May Go” MV #216

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.