

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

Oct 12, 2025

10:30 a.m.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving 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 Presentation

***Introit** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" VU #232

vv. 1, 2 English, v. 3 French

Call to Worship

Come, you who carry joy in your hearts,
and you who come weary from the week that was.

**We come with gratitude and with longing,
with laughter and with tears,
bringing our whole selves before God.**

Come, you who find thanksgiving easy,
and you who struggle to find reasons to rejoice.

**We come as we are —
grateful, uncertain, hopeful, and human.**

For God meets us not only in our praise,
but also in our questions and our quiet.

**Even when gratitude feels hard,
God receives what we can offer,
and blesses it with peace.**

Come, then, into this time of worship —
to remember, to give thanks,
and to be renewed by the presence of Love.

**We come, trusting that even small thanksgivings
can open our hearts to God's abundance.**

***Hymn** "Let Us With a Gladsome Mind"

VU 234

Prayer of Approach

**O God of quiet mornings and gathered hearts,
we come carrying both gratitude and ache.
Some days thanks comes easily —
other days, it hides beneath the weight of living.**

**Meet us here, just as we are.
Open our eyes to the small wonders still unfolding:
the warmth of light, the breath we take,
the kindness that waits in unexpected places.**

**Let this hour be a softening —
a place where our thanks can grow again,
slowly, honestly, in your tender grace.
Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
who 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 —
the bread that feeds body and soul —
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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 100

VU #824

***Hymn** "Shout For God"

VU #246 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "Shout For God"

VU #246 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

You know, gratitude's a funny thing.
It grows when we give it away.
Like bread passed around a table—
somehow there's always enough.

So, as we give today,
may it not just fill the plates that are empty,
but the hearts that are hungry, too.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** What Can I Do?

MV #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**O Generous Heart,
from your abundance
the world is fed,
and our lives are blessed.**

**What we offer now
is but a whisper of that fullness —
a way of saying *thank you*
for breath,
for beauty,
for the quiet kindness that carries us through.**

**Take these gifts, O God,
and the intentions behind them.**

**Let them become
bread for the hungry,**

**comfort for the weary,
and light for the path ahead.**

**Bless what we give,
and bless what we keep,
that all may serve your work of love
in this world you so tenderly hold.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of Truth,
as these words from long ago are read,
open them again for us as if for the first time.

Let the call to rejoice,
the promise of peace,
and the gift of living bread
speak into the quiet corners of our lives.

May your Word take root in us today —
softening what is hard,
steadying what is uncertain,
and awakening in us
a deep and lasting gratitude
for the grace that holds all things together. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Philippians 4:4–9 (NRSV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 6:25–35 (NRSV)

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

26 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

28 Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

30 So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?

31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon “When Gratitude Feels Hard”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God,
on this Thanksgiving Sunday we come with hearts that are full —
full of memories,
longings, and questions,
full of both gratitude and grief.

We thank you for the goodness that surrounds us:
for the harvest gathered,
for the turning of seasons,
for family and friends who steady us when life
feels fragile.

For laughter around tables and the kindness of strangers —
we give you thanks.

Yet we remember, too, those for whom this day is hard —
those who grieve empty chairs,
who struggle with illness of body or spirit,
who face uncertainty in work or home.

Be near to the broken-hearted,
and let your peace guard every anxious mind.

We pray for a world still aching for justice —
for those whose harvests have failed,
for the hungry and the displaced,
for lands weary from war and greed.

Teach us to share what we have
so that gratitude becomes compassion made visible.

And in this community, O God,
help us to notice the small, daily miracles —
a sunrise,
a kind word,
a shared meal.

Remind us that these, too, are holy.

In the silence of our hearts,
we lift the names and needs we carry this day...

Receive all that we offer in prayer,
and breathe upon it your peace that passes understanding.

We pray in the spirit of the One who taught us to live thankfully and love generously.

Amen.

***Hymn** “Let All Things Now Living”

VU #242

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 stillness of this day
settle softly within you.

May gratitude find you —
not in the grand or the certain,
but in the small graces that wait beside the ordinary.

When your heart feels heavy,
may you sense the steady pulse of life beneath the weight —
the quiet promise that you are held.

May the blessing of the Giver of All
rise gently within you like morning light,
until even your doubts shimmer with a trace of praise.

Go now in peace —
with courage to notice,

faith to trust,
and joy enough to share.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “You Shall go Out With Joy” VU #884

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.