

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

Oct 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.

19th 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 and Find the Quiet Centre"

VU #374 v.1

Call to Worship

Come — you who are restless,
who lie awake with questions that have no name.

**We come with open hearts,
bringing our doubts and our dreams.**

Come — you who carry unfinished stories
and the ache of wanting something more.

**We come to the river of grace,
where even our struggles are held in love.**

So come — not to prove,
but simply to be present
to the One who has been quietly pursuing us all along.

**We come to listen,
to rest,
and to remember:**

**we are held,
and in the holding — we are blessed.**

***Hymn** “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

VU #633

Prayer of Approach

**Holy Presence,
you meet us in the night hours
when the noise fades and the heart begins to speak.**

**You are not far off,
but close — closer than our own breath —
patiently waiting
for the moment when we are ready to listen.**

**As Jacob met you beside the river,
we meet you here —
in the mystery of our questions,
in the beauty of being unfinished.**

**Teach us,
in this time of worship,
to stop running from what is true
and to find, even in the wrestling,
your blessing waiting for us.**

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.**

**And 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 119:97–104

VU #840

***Hymn** “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

VU #577 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

VU #577 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The river keeps flowing —
always giving, never holding back.

Our giving is like that:
a way of joining the current of love
that moves through the world,
 carrying hope,
 renewing life,
 restoring what is broken.

So as we bring our gifts —
our offerings, our time, our hearts —
let us give not from duty,
but from gratitude,
trusting that what we offer
will flow outward
and bless others along the way.

We give as we are able, we give how we are called.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?”

VU #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**River of Life,
take what we offer
and carry it where it is needed most.**

**Let these gifts ripple outward —
healing what is wounded,
refreshing what is dry,
and stirring faith in quiet places.**

**May our giving
become part of your current of compassion,
flowing through this community
and far beyond it.**

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of Wisdom,
the words we are about to hear
are not just ink on a page —
they are water,
flowing from your heart to ours.

Help us to listen with openness,
to hear not only the story of Jacob or of old,
but the story you are still writing in us today.

May these words
reach the hidden places,
stir the sleeping questions,
and call us — each one —
toward deeper honesty,
deeper faith,
and deeper love.

Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 32:22–31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."

29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Luke 18:1–8

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared

God nor had respect for people.

3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'

4 For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon "The Restless River"

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the river and the night,
you know the weight we carry —
the questions we try to silence,
the worries we hide behind polite smiles.

You meet us in the restlessness,
in the long hours when we are awake
and the world is quiet.

You meet us
in our joy and in our grief,
in our certainty and in our doubt,
in all the shifting seasons of the heart.

We pray for those tonight
whose minds cannot rest —
for the anxious, the grieving, the lonely.
Wrap them in your peace.

We pray for those who are wrestling —
with illness,
with faith,
with relationships,
with meaning.

Give them strength to stay with the struggle
until your blessing rises within it.

We pray for the Church —
that it may become a safe riverbank
for all who come searching,
a place where honesty is welcomed
and love runs deep.

And we pray for ourselves —
that we may live awake,
alive to wonder,
open to change,
trusting that your grace

is already at work
in all our unfinished places.

In the name of the One
who meets us at the river's edge,
we pray.
Amen.

***Hymn** "My Soul Cries Out" MV #120

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**

Go now,
with your questions and your wonder,
your hopes and your half-formed dreams.

Go knowing
that even when you wrestle,
you are never alone.

The One who meets you in the night
will walk beside you in the day.
The One who holds you in the struggle
will bless you in the becoming.

Blessing

So go —
with peace in your step,
with courage in your heart,
and with the quiet assurance
that grace is already flowing before you,
and beneath you,
and within you.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.