

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

October 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Twentieth 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, beloved of Earth:
you who rise with the sun,
you who breathe with the trees,
you who walk on holy ground.

We come with gratitude in our bones.
We come to remember we belong.

The fields have their own music.
The rivers know how to pray.
Even the soil carries stories of grace.

Let creation be our teacher.
Let the Spirit be our guide.
Let Christ be our companion on this sacred path.

Come, let us worship the One
who blesses the land,
fills the sky with song,
and calls us good.

***Hymn** “God of Still Waiting”

MV #20

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One,
we arrive as guests—
of this land,
of this moment,
of your unmeasured grace.**

**May we be gentle in your sanctuary,
not only in this place,
but in the great cathedral of creation.**

**Open our eyes to wonder.
Open our ears to joy.
Open our hearts to blessing.**

**Not because we have earned it,
but because you always give more than we ask.**

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

Lord's Prayer

A Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer in the Voice of Creation-Aware Discipleship

**Our Creator,
Rooted in sky and soil,
you are sacred beyond all names.**

**May your wild and holy ways take root among us.
May your dream for the world rise like the morning—
in every field, every city, every heart.**

**Give us this day what we truly need—
bread that nourishes without harming,
water that runs clean and free,
and enough wonder to keep us grateful.**

**Forgive us for the harm we've done—
to the Earth, to each other, to ourselves.
And help us forgive those
who forget they are part of this great belonging.**

**Lead us away from habits that destroy.
Guide us instead into paths of renewal—
where humility is strength
and justice is joy.**

**For this is your Earth,
your Spirit,
your unfolding future—
alive with beauty and blessing,
now and always.**

Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 65

VU # 782

***Hymn** “Jesus, Friend of Little Children”

VU #340 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Jesus, Friend of Little Children”

VU #340 v.3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Look at how the Earth gives—
the tree offers its fruit without demanding thanks.
the sky pours rain on all,
not asking who deserves it.

Let us give with the same open heart —
not out of pressure,
but as an act of participation in God's abundance.

This offering is not just for the work of the church.
It’s a way of saying:
“I believe in restoration.

I believe in beauty.

I believe in blessing.”

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Praise You, O God”

VU #218 v.1

***Offertory Prayer**

**Generous Creator,
bless the giver and the gift.
May these offerings nourish more than budgets —
may they nourish hope.**

**Let them grow into gardens of justice,
ripples of compassion,
and reminders that generosity is how you made the world
to work. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of wisdom,
you are not confined to pages or pulpits.

You speak through prophets and poets,
through rainclouds and ripe fields,
through old letters and humble prayers.

As we hear the Scriptures today —
let them bloom inside us.

Let Joel’s words be rain.
Let the Psalm be a harvest.

Let Paul's journey give us courage.
Let Jesus' story open our hearts. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Joel 2:23–32 (NRSV)

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and
fire and columns of smoke.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,
before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved;
for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who
escape,
as the Lord has said,
and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 (NRSV)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the
time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept
the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his
appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them!

But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom.

To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:9–14 (NRSV)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven,

but was beating his breast and saying,

‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other;

for all who exalt themselves will be humbled,
but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon “When the Earth Prays Back” *A sermon spoken in the voice of the Earth*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Let our gratitude be wide,
as wide as the open sky.

We give thanks for the ground that holds us steady,
for the hands that plant and tend with care,
for the faithful turning of the seasons —
and the quiet promise they carry.

We give thanks for the prophets who dream,
the elders who endure,
the children who still imagine more beautiful ways to live.

We give thanks for mercy that moves like a river
and for joy that rises uninvited, like the sun.

And we pray —

For communities rebuilding what’s been broken.
For neighbours near and far, still in need.

For lands recovering from flood, fire, and drought.
May restoration come —
not only in the weather,
but in the way we live with one another.

Bless those who work for peace —
in policy and in protest,
in gardens and in gatherings,
in word and in silence.

Bless this Earth, not as a problem to fix,
but as a sibling to cherish.

And bless us —
to walk humbly,
to love deeply,
and to live kindly
in the days we are given. Amen.

***Hymn** “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

VU #271

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**

Go now—
not to conquer, but to companion.

Walk this Earth as one who belongs:
to the land,
to the Spirit,
to the great story of blessing.

May your faith be fertile,
your prayers honest,
your hope deep-rooted.

And may the One who crowns the year with goodness
surround you with joy that spills over—
into the lives of others,
into the body of the Earth,
into every season yet to come. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.