

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

September 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

14th 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 is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** Rise Up, Rise Up

MV #130

Call to Worship

Come, beloved of God, just as you are — strong or weary,
joyful or uncertain, fearful and hope filled.

God meets us in every season of our lives.

Come, you who walk in light and you who dwell in shadow.

Christ is our companion on every road.

Come, you who reach out with hope, and you who long simply to
be held.

The Spirit gathers us into a community of care.

Come, beloved of God — let us worship the One whose holds us
every day of our lives.

We come with open hearts, ready to be met and held by love.

***Hymn** Come and Find the Quiet Centre VU #374

Prayer of Approach

**We gather in this place, O God,
grateful for breath,
grateful for one another,
grateful for the quiet strength that carries us here.**

**We do not come seeking perfection,
but presence.**

**We do not come expecting answers,
but hoping to know your nearness.**

**Gather the scattered pieces of our hearts
and hold them in your grace.**

**Where fear has taken root,
plant instead a seed of trust.**

**Where sorrow lingers,
let gentleness rise.**

**Where joy flickers,
shelter it until it burns steady.**

**Companion of the weary,
Spirit within all that is broken and whole,
be among us now.**

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 23

VU # 749

***Hymn** In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VU #703 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VU #703 vv. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We give not because we are whole,
but because we are held.
We give not because we have enough,
but because grace multiplies even our small offerings.

Let our giving be an act of reaching out—
a touch of hope and healing extended into the world.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** In Grateful and Humble Trust

VU #544

***Offertory Prayer**

Receive these gifts, O God,
like seeds scattered on uncertain soil.
Bless them with your Spirit,
that from them may grow
companionship for the lonely,
strength for the weary,
and love made visible among us.
Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O Christ,
you are the stillness beneath our fear,
the hand we reach for in the dark.
As your Word is read among us,
let it find its way past our defenses,
into the hidden rooms of our hearts.
Speak to us of courage,
of mercy,

of healing that is deeper than cure.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

8 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me,

9 but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Mark 5:25-34

25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years.

26 She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse.

27 She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

28 for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."

29 Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'"

32 He looked all around to see who had done it.

33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon When Illness Becomes a Teacher

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, for the gift of this day,
for the people who walk beside us,
and for the glimpses of beauty that steady us,
we give you thanks.

For your presence in all our days, we give you thanks.

We thank you for those who bring healing —
for medical folk,
for companions who sit with us in silence,
for friends who know when to speak
and when to simply hold our hand.

For your presence in all our days, we give you thanks.

We hold before you, O God,
all who live with illness, pain and suffering
all who carry pain in body, mind, or spirit.
We remember the exhaustion,
the fear, the uncertainty, the unanswered questions
the frustration of waiting,
the loneliness of nights that feel too long.

In our weakness, be our strength.

Yet we also remember the surprising gifts—
the new friendships formed in waiting rooms,
the courage discovered when we least expected it,

the small healings of laughter, of kindness,
of being seen and loved.

In our weakness, be our strength.

Be with those among us who seek healing,
whether in body, mind, or heart.
Remind us that healing comes in many ways —
in medicine and in prayer,
in hope and in endurance,
in love shared through community.

In our weakness, be our strength.

O God of the valley and the mountaintop,
walk with us in all our journeys.
Where tears fall, hold them with tenderness.
Where joy breaks through, let it deepen our trust.
Where endings come, remind us of your eternal presence.

For your presence in all our days, we give you thanks.
Amen.

***Hymn** Healer of Our Every Ill

VU #619

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 with the blessing of the Shepherd:
light for the valleys,
companionship for the road,
and grace enough for each day.
In weakness and in strength,
in sorrow and in joy,
the Spirit goes with you.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** Called by Earth and Sky MU #135 (Chorus)

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.