

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

Sept 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth 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** "Rise Up, Rise Up"

MV #130

Call to Worship

Come, children of light, people of hope, seekers of wisdom.

We come to worship the One who is generous beyond measure.

God calls us to live with courage and creativity, to use all we have for love and justice.

We bring our hearts, our gifts, our lives.

Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

For where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

***Hymn** "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

VU #395

Prayer of Approach

Generous God,

you meet us in this hour with open hands and open heart.

You call us to live boldly,

to use our gifts wisely,

to shape our days with love.

**As we gather in your presence,
free us from fear,
loosen our grip on what does not last,
and open us to your true riches:
community, compassion, and joy.
In Christ, and in the Spirit's power, we pray. Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer (Celtic-Inspired)

O God, our Maker, our Midwife, our Friend,
hallowed be your name in the whole of creation.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
in the dance of earth and sky,
in the life of sea and soil,
in our hearts and in our homes.

Give us this day the bread we need,
the gift of air and fire,
the gift of friendship and love.

Forgive us when we wound your creation,
when we turn from neighbour or deny our own soul.
As we are forgiven,
may we forgive.

Save us from the time of trial,
deliver us from all that destroys.

For the kingdom of life,
the power of love,

and the glory of new beginnings are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 79:1–9 VU# 793

***Hymn** “Sing a Happy Hallelujah” VU #224 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Sing a Happy Hallelujah” VU #224 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Jesus tells us that money reveals where our heart is.
It can bind us in fear and self-protection,
or it can become a tool for love,
a sign of trust,
a witness to God’s abundance.
As we bring our offerings,
we choose generosity over grasping,
community over isolation,
God over mammon.
Let us give with glad and daring hearts.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “In Gratitude and Humble Trust” VU #544

***Offertory Prayer**

**God of abundance,
take these gifts we offer today —
the money we give, the time we share, the love we
extend —
and use them for your purposes.
Bless them, and bless us,
that we may be clever in compassion,
daring in generosity,
and faithful in building your realm of justice and peace.
Through Christ, our treasure and our joy. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Holy One,
your Word is living and active,
sharper than any sword,
gentler than any whisper.
By your Spirit, open our ears to hear,
our minds to understand,
and our hearts to be changed.
May the Scriptures read and proclaimed
become for us the bread of life
and the cup of blessing.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?

Is her King not in her?”

(Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.”

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples,

“There was a rich man who had a manager,
and charges were brought to him
that this man was squandering his property.
So he summoned him and said to him,
‘What is this that I hear about you?
Give me an accounting of your management,
because you cannot be my manager any longer.’

Then the manager said to himself,
‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away
from me?

I am not strong enough to dig,
and I am ashamed to beg.
I have decided what to do
so that, when I am dismissed as manager,
people may welcome me into their homes.’

So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one,
he asked the first,
‘How much do you owe my master?’
He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’
He said to him,
‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’

Then he asked another,
‘And how much do you owe?’
He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’
He said to him,
‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’

And his master commended the dishonest manager
because he had acted shrewdly;
for the children of this age are more shrewd
in dealing with their own generation
than are the children of light.

And I tell you,
make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth
so that when it is gone,
they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful in a very little
is faithful also in much;
and whoever is dishonest in a very little
is dishonest also in much.
If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,
who will entrust to you the true riches?
And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is your own?

No slave can serve two masters;
for a slave will either hate the one and love the other,
or be devoted to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon *Tears and Treasure*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of wisdom and generosity,
you call us to be resourceful in love,
faithful in generosity,
bold in hope.

Hear the prayers we bring for the world,
the church, and all who are in need.

We pray for the world —
for places torn by greed, corruption, or war,
for communities struggling with the weight of poverty,
for the earth itself, exploited for gain.
God of justice, stir our hearts to be bold in compassion.

(silence)

We pray for the church —
that it may be a community of generosity,
a place where all are welcome,
a witness to your kingdom of justice and peace.

(silence)

We pray for those who suffer —
the sick, the lonely, the anxious, the grieving.
Especially we remember those on our hearts this day...

(names may be spoken aloud or in silence).

(silence)

God of mercy, surround them with comfort and care,
and open us to be your hands of healing.

We pray for ourselves, O God.
Teach us to be wise with what we have,
to be daring in generosity,
to find joy in sharing.
May we discover true riches in you.

We gather our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn** “Lord, Speak to Me”

VU #589

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 forth, children of light.
Be wise in love,
bold in generosity,
faithful in hope.
And may the blessing of God—
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—
go with you and remain with you,

this day and always.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Called By Earth and Sky”

MV #135

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.