

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

Sept 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Sixteenth 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, all who seek refuge, all who walk through shadows.

We will rest in the shelter of the Most High.

Come, all who are hungry for justice, thirsty for mercy, longing for kindness.

We will sit at the gate, noticing who waits, welcoming who comes.

Come, children, parents, neighbours, strangers, and friends.

Let us worship God together — gates open, hearts ready.

***Hymn** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

VU #220

Prayer of Approach

O God,

we come carrying gates in our hands,

barriers we have built, fences we have raised.

We come with eyes heavy from worry, ears tired from noise.

**Meet us here.
Breathe into the spaces we have left empty.
Let your presence rest upon us like sunlight,
and your shadow be a refuge in the storm.
Teach us to notice, to sit, to offer bread,
to welcome the Lazaruses waiting at our thresholds.**

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 91:1-6, 14-16

VU # 807-809

***Hymn** “Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

All that we have, all that we are,
is a gift from the One who names the forgotten.
Let us offer back a portion of our lives in gratitude,
to open gates, to build benches, to nourish the world.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

VU #544

***Offertory Prayer**

**O God,
we bring these gifts to you —
symbols of our care,
reminders of our dependence.
Bless them, bless us,**

that our giving might open doors,
offer shade,
and welcome those who wait.
Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of threshold and shadow,
open our hearts to the story.
Open our eyes to the hungry, the forgotten, the named and
unnamed.
Let us hear your voice between the lines,
and let the story bend our lives toward mercy,
toward justice, toward love.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15 NRSV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord
in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah,
which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

At that time, the army of the king of Babylon
was besieging Jerusalem,
and the prophet Jeremiah
was confined in the court of the guard
in the palace of the king of Judah.

King Zedekiah had said to him,
“Why do you prophesy and say:
‘Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city
into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it’?”

The word of the Lord came to me:

“Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum
is going to come to you and say,
‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth,
for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’”

Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard
and said to me,
“Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.
The right of possession and redemption is yours;
buy it for yourself.”

So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel,
and weighed out the money to him — seventeen shekels of silver.

I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the
money on scales.

Then I took the sealed deed, containing the terms and conditions,
and the open copy,
and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah,
in the presence of my cousin Hanamel,
in the presence of the witnesses,
and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the
court of the guard.

And I charged Baruch, saying:
“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:
Take these deeds, both the sealed deed and the open deed,

and put them in an earthenware jar,
so that they may last for a long time.

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:
Houses and fields and vineyards
shall again be bought in this land.”

Luke 16:19–31 NRSV

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen,
and who feasted sumptuously every day.

At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus,
covered with sores,
longing to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s
table;
even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died, and was carried away by the angels to be with
Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was being tormented,
he looked up and saw Abraham far away,
with Lazarus by his side.

He called out,
‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me,
and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water
and cool my tongue,
for I am in agony in these flames.’

But Abraham said,
‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your

good things,
and Lazarus in like manner evil things;
but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.

Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed,
so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do
so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

He said,
'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house —
for I have five brothers —
that he may warn them,
so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

Abraham replied,
'They have Moses and the prophets;
they should listen to them.'

He said,
'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead,
they will repent.'

He said to him,
'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the
dead.'"

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon *Gates and Thresholds: Where Blessing Begins*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of gates and thresholds,
we bring before you the lives that wait quietly outside our notice.
The Lazaruses at our doors,
the nameless ones in our streets.

We pray for those who are hungry, lonely, or forgotten.
May they find refuge in your presence,
comfort in your shelter,
and the assurance that they are not unseen.

We remember those who guard their hearts,
hesitant to open doors or cross boundaries,
weighed down by fear or doubt.
Grant them courage and compassion.
Help them notice the ones who wait,
and meet the world with gentle curiosity
rather than walls.

We hold before you those who wait for welcome,
unsure if anyone will see them or call their name.
Breathe patience and hope into their hearts,
remind them that you know their names,
that you see their longing,
and that your love calls them into life.

We bring to you communities divided, families struggling,
and neighbours in conflict.

Teach us to be instruments of reconciliation.
May our gates and our words become thresholds of peace,
hospitality, and shared joy.

We pray for those who care for the sick,
the weak, the wandering, the lost.
Strengthen them, O God.
Grant them endurance, wisdom,
and delight in small victories,
knowing that their faithful presence
bears your love into the world.

We remember children, elders, and all in between.
May our homes, our streets, our public spaces
become thresholds of welcome.
May kindness, curiosity, and care flow freely,
and may we recognize the sacred
in the small, ordinary moments of life.

We bring before you the Earth and all creatures,
who roam freely or wait behind gates.
Teach us stewardship and gentle care.
May our hands protect, our hearts nurture,
and our lives walk lightly upon your creation.

And for ourselves, here in this place,
we ask for eyes to see, hearts to open,
and courage to act.
May we become a shelter, a shadow, a bench, a welcome, a
blessing, following the path of your mercy and love.

God of named and unnamed, of thresholds and gates,
hear these prayers.

Let them rise in your presence,
and shape our lives into reflections
of your justice, your mercy, and your compassion.
Amen.

***Hymn** “Now Thank We all Our God”

VU #236

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 your gate be open enough to notice who waits.
May your threshold be wide enough to offer rest and welcome.
May your bench be long enough to share bread, word, and
presence.
May the shadow of God's love rest upon you,
and may your eyes always see the Lazaruses waiting at your gate.
Go in peace, courage, and grace. Amen.

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

MV #135 (Chorus)

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**