

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

September 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

13th 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** Dance with the Spirit

MV #156

Call to Worship

Come—just as you are—into the presence of the Living God.

We come with questions and hopes, with weariness and wonder.

Like clay in the potter's hands, we are being shaped—again and again.

We open our lives to God's forming Spirit.

Let us worship with attentive hearts and willing spirits.

God is not finished with us yet!

***Hymn** It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

MV #30

Prayer of Approach

**Creating God,
you are the potter, and we are the clay—
held in your steady hands, spun upon the wheel of love.
Shape us anew this day: soften what is rigid in us,
mend what is broken, and form us to reflect your grace.
When we resist your shaping, give us courage to yield.
When we fear change, remind us that you are with us still.
Come, Holy One, and make something beautiful in us today.**

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 139

VU # 861

***Hymn** Jesus Loves Me

VU #365 v.1&2

All God's Children

Hymn Jesus Loves Me

VU #365 v.3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Just as the potter takes what seems ordinary—clay—and creates something beautiful, God takes our offerings and shapes them into hope and compassion for the world. In gratitude for all we've received, and in trust of the God who shapes and reshapes our lives, let us share our gifts with open hearts. And remember, we give as we are able, we give as we are called.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** What Can I Do?

MV #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**God of abundance,
Receive these gifts—given from our hands and hearts.
Shape them into compassion, justice and joy.
As we offer these tokens, we also offer ourselves:
our time, our hopes, and our willingness to be made new.
In Christ's name and Spirit's power we pray. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God who speaks in the whisper and the wind,
in the prophet's call and the turning wheel,
open our hearts to hear your Word today.
May it unsettle what needs to be stirred,
and comfort what longs for peace.
Through your Spirit, may we be not only hearers,
but vessels of your transforming love.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 18:1–11

- 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:
- 2 “Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.”
- 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.
- 4 The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.
- 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me:
- 6 “Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

7 At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,

8 but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.

9 And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

10 but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

11 Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Luke 14:25–33

25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,

26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,
30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Anthem

Prayer

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of every possibility,
we thank you for the beauty and the breath of this day,
for the quiet wisdom of the earth,
and for moments when we glimpse your Spirit reshaping us.

We thank you for people who have formed our lives with love:
teachers, elders, mentors, and friends—
and for the gentle hands that guide us when we falter.

We pray for the world you love:
for places where fear hardens hearts and violence breaks lives,
shape peace from the ruins.
For those facing change they did not choose—illness, grief, or
loss— shape comfort and courage in their hearts.

We pray for this church:
in our planning, dreaming, and becoming—
mould us to be vessels of hope,
not rigid with fear, but pliable with faith.

Hold in your care all whose names we whisper now...
[Silent prayer or naming]

May your Spirit shape us as agents of healing,
co-creators of kindness,
and disciples of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** Take My Life and Let It Be

VU #506

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, beloved of God,
not as finished vessels,
but as clay still being formed
by the loving hands of the Creator.
Walk with courage into the shaping of your days—
knowing that God goes with you,
Christ walks beside you,
and the Spirit lives within you,
now and always.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** You Shall Go Out With Joy

VU #884

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.