

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

April 12, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

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,
not because you have it all figured out,
but because something in you is still reaching.
We come, drawn by a hope we cannot name.**

We come,
with our questions, our weariness, our wondering,
with all that feels unfinished.

Come, just as we are.

There are powers that close doors,
and voices that say: *this is the end.*

We gather around a deeper truth.

What was crushed has not disappeared.
What was silenced is still speaking.

Life is stirring. Love is rising.

We come to witness,
not with perfect understanding,
but with open hearts.

Come to meet the Living Presence among us.

Let us worship the One
who enters even our locked places
and calls us back to life.

We come to worship.

***Hymn** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks”

VU #179

Prayer of Approach

**God of the unextinguished,
you are not contained by our endings.**

**When we draw lines and say, *no further*,
you cross them.**

**When we close doors and say, *no more*,
you enter anyway.**

**You are not fragile,
not easily dismissed,
not defeated by the worst we can do.**

**You are the quiet insistence of life,
the pulse beneath despair,
the breath that returns when we thought it gone.**

**Draw near to us now,
not as sureness,
but as presence.**

**Not as answers,
but as a widening of our hearts.**

**Meet us in our fear,
stand with us in our questions,
and awaken in us
what cannot be killed.**

**We open ourselves to you,
holy mystery, living presence,
ever-rising love.**

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 16

VU #737-738

Hymn “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”

VU #605

All God’s Children

Hymn “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”

VU #605

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

There are many things that do not last,
markets shift, structures fail,
even our best plans unravel.

But there are things that endure:
kindness given,
justice pursued,
compassion embodied.

What we offer today is not simply money,
it is participation
in what cannot be destroyed.

So give,
not from obligation,
but from trust
that what is rooted in love
will outlive us all.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “Your Work O God Needs Many Hands” VU #537

***Offertory Prayer**

**Take these gifts, O God,
and breathe into them your life.
Where they are small, make them enough.
Where they are scattered, gather them.
Where they are given with hesitation,
transform them into courage.

May they serve not what fades,
but what endures,
healing, dignity, connection, and hope.

Use them, and us,
in the quiet work of resurrection.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Before the words are read,
still us.

Before interpretation begins,
soften us.

We come not to master these stories,
but to be met within them.

If there is something here
that refuses to die,
a truth, a challenge, a call,
let it find us.

Open not only our minds,
but our lives.

That we might hear,
and in hearing,
be changed.

Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the

help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

Sermon *What Could not be Killed*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of life that persists,

We bring before you a world
where so much feels fragile—
peace that falters,
bodies that fail,
communities that fracture.

We name before you
what seems to be dying among us...

(silence)

And we ask—
not for easy answers,

but for your presence
within these places.

Where fear has locked the doors,
enter.

Where grief has taken hold,
remain.

Where injustice appears to win,
stir resistance that is rooted in love.

We pray for those
who are weary of hoping,
those who have been disappointed too often,
those who feel that nothing will change.

Hold them in a deeper knowing—
that even now,
something is stirring.

We pray for courage—
not loud or heroic,
but steady and enduring.

The courage to forgive,
to begin again,
to stand for what is right,
to trust what we cannot yet see.

And we pray for ourselves—
that we might become people
through whom life continues:

breathing peace,
embodying compassion,
refusing despair.

In the quiet, we offer our own prayers...
(silence)

Receive all that has been spoken and unspoken,
and hold it within your unending life.

Amen.

***Hymn** “Jesus, Stand Among Us”

VU #396

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

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.

***Benediction**

Go now,
not with certainty,
but with courage.

Not with all the answers,
but with a deeper trust.

And as you go, remember:

There are forces that diminish,
and voices that declare endings—
but they do not have the final word.

For there is within you,
and beyond you,
a life that cannot be killed.

May you feel it rising
in unexpected moments—
in kindness given,
in truth spoken,
in breath returning.

And may the peace that meets us in our fear
go with you,
hold you,
and send you,
back into the world
as witnesses to what endures.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.