

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

April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Third 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

We gather from roads that have turned unexpectedly,
from places where the way forward is not clear.

We come, just as we are.

We bring questions, fragments, and unfinished stories.

We come, just as we are.

Something has met us along the way...

in conversation, in silence, in moments we cannot explain.

We come, just as we are.

Come, not to arrive, but to be present.

We come, just as we are.

*Hymn "Called by Earth and Sky"

MV #135

Prayer of Approach

**God of the open road,
you meet us in places we did not expect to find you,
in the stranger beside us,
in the quiet turning of the heart,
in the breaking of what we thought was whole.**

**Stay with us when the path bends,
when what we trusted no longer holds,
when we feel unsteady in our own lives.**

**Do not rush us past what we do not understand.
Instead, dwell with us there,
 in the questions,
 in the silence,
 in the slow unfolding of new life.**

**Open us, not to easy answers,
 but to deeper awareness,
to a presence that walks with us,
even when we do not recognize it.**

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 116:1-4, 12-19

VU #836

Hymn "I Can feel You near me God"

MV #48 vv.1,2

All God's Children

Hymn "I Can feel You near me God"

MV #48 vv.1,2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Life meets us as gift... unexpected, unearned, and often unplanned.

What we have is never fully ours to hold,
but something to share, to release, to place into the life of the world.

As we offer what we can today,
may it become part of something larger than ourselves...
a quiet unfolding of care, connection, and hope.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

**Receive these gifts, O God,
not as something finished or complete,
but as part of a life still unfolding.**

**Take what we offer, our resources, our intentions, our
willingness,
and shape them in ways we cannot foresee.**

**Let them become signs of care in a fractured world,
and let them draw us more deeply into lives of generosity
and compassion. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

As we listen to these ancient words,
help us to hear beyond what is familiar.

Where the story unsettles us, let us linger.
Where it confuses us, let us remain open.
Where it surprises us, let us pay attention.

Speak to us in ways we do not expect,
in what is said, and in what is left unsaid.

And in this space of listening,
draw us into a deeper way of seeing.

Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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.

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Anthem

Sermon *When the Road does Not Lead where we Thought*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

For all who find themselves on uncertain paths,
walking through change, loss, or transition,

Walk beside them.

For those who feel disoriented by the world around them,
by conflict, by injustice, by the breaking of what once seemed
secure...

Hold them in your presence.

For those who no longer recognize the faith they once held,
who are searching for meaning in new and unfamiliar ways,

Meet them in the searching.

For those who have been overlooked or unheard,
whose stories remain unseen,

Open our eyes and our hearts.

For communities learning to live differently,
to respond to what is changing,
to imagine new ways of being together,

Guide them with wisdom and courage.

For ourselves,

when we feel unsettled, unsure, or overwhelmed...

Stay with us on the journey.

We hold now, in silence, the people and places on our hearts...

(silence)

In all that we carry, spoken and unspoken...

Receive our prayer.

Amen.

***Hymn** “As We Walked Home at Close of Day”

VU #184

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.

***Blessing**

Go into the unfolding of your days
with a willingness to be present to what comes.

When the way is unclear,
may you find companions for the journey.

When you encounter the unexpected,
may you remain open to what it may reveal.

And may you discover, again and again,
that you are met along the way,
in places both familiar and strange.

Amen.

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

VU #964

Postlude

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