

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

February 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday After Epiphany

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** “Come, O Holy Spirit”

MV #23 v.1

Call to Worship

In a world crowded with voices,
where certainty often speaks louder than compassion,

we come seeking the God who listens.

In a time when answers rush ahead of questions,

we gather before the God who asks, “What have I done to you?”

From mountains and hills, from ancient witness and present
longing,

God calls us to slow down and remember.

Come-not to impress, not to perform,

but to walk humbly with our God.

***Hymn** “Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222

Prayer of Approach

**Holy and listening God,
you do not rush toward judgment,
nor do you overwhelm us with demands.**

**You draw near with questions
that invite us back into relationship.**

**You ask not for spectacle,
but for lives shaped by justice,
softened by kindness,
and grounded in humility.**

**Quiet the noise within us.
Loosen our grip on certainty.
Make room in us for your gentle wisdom,
that we may dwell close to you
and to one another.
Amen.**

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 15

VU# 736

***Hymn** "All Poor Ones and Humble"

VU #68 v.1

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We give today not because God requires more,
but because love always seeks expression.

Justice grows when resources are shared.
Kindness deepens when generosity becomes habit.
Humility remembers that all we hold
has first been given.

Let us give with open hands and open hearts.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

VU #55 v. 4

***Offertory Prayer**

**Gracious God,
receive these gifts
as part of our imperfect yet willing lives.**

**Where there is wobble, bring steadiness.
Where there is lack, bring sufficiency.
Where there is fracture, bring repair.**

**May what we offer today
be used not for display,
but for the quiet work of love
in a world that longs for healing.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of the living Word,
as scripture is read and heard among us,
slow our hurried minds
and soften our guarded hearts.

Let these ancient words
find fresh soil within us.
Give us ears that truly listen,
and spirits ready to be shaped —
not toward certainty,
but toward faithfulness. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Micah 6:1–8

6 Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

² “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.
For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

³ “My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.
I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

⁵ My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted

and what Balaam son of Beor answered.
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

Matthew 5:1–12

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside
and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach
them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Anthem

Prayer

Let the words of my mouth,
and the listening of all our hearts,
be held in your grace, O God.
May your peace rest upon us
and guide us into what is true and life-giving.
Amen.

Sermon Walking Humbly in a Loud World

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

For a world that prizes speed and strength,
yet grows weary from division and strain —
teach us the courage of gentleness.

God of mercy, walk with us.

For communities where trust has thinned,
where kindness feels costly,
and justice feels delayed —
steady what has come loose.

God of mercy, walk with us.

For the church, more or less pure,
always in need of repair —
keep us humble enough to learn
and faithful enough to try again.

God of mercy, walk with us.

For those who feel stranded,
without the right tools,
unsure how to begin —
send neighbours, send grace,
send quiet help.

God of mercy, walk with us.

For all we carry in silence this day —
spoken or unspoken, named or unnamed —
hold us in your listening love.

God of mercy, walk with us. Amen.

***Hymn** “When I Needed a Neighbour”

VU #600

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 into the world —
not to be louder,
but to be truer.

Do justice where you stand.
Love kindness where you live.
Walk humbly,
trusting that even small acts of faithfulness
carry the weight of holiness.

And may the God who asks questions
walk beside you on every step of the way.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Draw the Circle Wide" MV #145 Chorus & v.3

Postlude *Please stand as you are able.