

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 12, 2021 – 10:30 am
Third Sunday in Advent – Joy

Central Queens' Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating 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 & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

*Introit Prepare the Way of the Lord VU #10

***Call to Worship**

In this season of waiting,
may patience be our companion.

In this season of demands,
may gentleness be our companion.

In this season of expectations,
may simplicity be our companion.

In this season of sharing,
may gratitude be our companion.

In this season of good news,
may prayer be our companion.

During our worship, may our companion be Joy.
Come, let us worship.

Advent Candle Lighting – Joy

Music Video

This is the third Sunday of Advent. Today we will light one more candle on our wreath to show that we are waiting for the birth of Jesus, for Christ's light to be born into the world. The Advent wreath is always clothed in green. The greenery is a symbol of life and growth. The green on the Advent wreath reminds us that God's love for us is very special—it is alive and is always growing. This Sunday we light the candle that symbolizes joy. The joy that we talk about when we think of Jesus is not merely the feeling of happiness, rather it is the experience—which includes many feelings—that comes from falling deeper and deeper in love with this world.

(The candle has been lit.)

Let us quiet our hearts. Take the time to go deeper. Close your eyes or focus on the candles. Breathe gently. Let us look for the joy that lives in all of us, the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus loves and cares for us and offers us hope for better things to come in this world. Notice the joy. Let it grow in you; let it spread throughout your being. Relax in that joy right now.

(Moment of silence)

Jesus, help your light to shine in us as joy.

Hymn Hope is a Star VU #7 vs 1, 2 & 3

Prayer of Approach

Holy God, as we get closer and closer to Christmas, it becomes easier to get caught up in the excitement and the bustle around us. Today, we joyfully gather together to worship you. Help us to set aside our planning and our fretting, our wish-lists and our to-do-lists so that we may focus on you. We pray that your Holy Spirit would fill this place, that we might hear your voice speaking to us.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Responsive Reading – Isaiah 12:1a-6

VU #880

Listening for the Word

***Hymn** God of All Places

Vu #4 vs 1 & 2

Sacred Word

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Luke 3:7-18

All God's Children

*** Hymn** God of All Places

Vu #4 vs 3

Anthem

Call of Confession

Sermon

Prayer of Confession

Reflective Music

We are called to prepare a new way: a way of generosity; a way of justice; a way of compassion. When we ignore this call we choose to be selfish:

forgive us.

When we choose to be unfair:

forgive us.

When we choose to be indifferent:

forgive us.

Oh God, may our spirits be open to your call.

(Silent reflection)

Silence

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** Hark the Glad Sound VU #29

***Blessing**

***Choral Benediction** A Light is Gleaming VU #82

Assurance of God's Love

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter VU #55 vs 4

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the light of Christ into lives where Jesus can turn despair into joy. Amen

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

Ministers

All of us

Clergy

Rev Greg Davis

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 am – 12 pm

Office Phone

902-964-2291

Email

minister@cquc.ca

Ministry of Music

Kirk Neville

Website

<https://cquc.ca/index.htm>

Phone

902-786-9222

Email

nevillevurry1@hotmail.com

Church Office

Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
 9 am – 12 pm
Phone 902-964-2221
Email office@cquc.ca

A Warm Welcome to All – We are delighted you’ve joined us. May God’s word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. All are welcome.

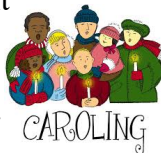
Life and Work of Our Church

Greg’s Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am – 12pm. If anyone is in the hospital or would like a visit from Greg, please call him at 902-964-2291. If you wish to meet with Greg outside the scheduled hours, please call 902-964-2291 or email minister@cquc.ca for an appointment.

In-Church Services: Registration is **required**. To register, please call 902-964-2221 or email office@cquc.ca. If you are registering **after 12 pm Thursday**, please text or call Velda at 902-940-7674. Masks are **required**. It was passed at the official Board meeting that masks are required to attend church services. This decision was made out of an abundance of precaution for the unvaccinated 5-11-year-old and immune compromised among us.

Sunday Worship Cancellations – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made by radio on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page if our church service is cancelled.

Christmas Carol Service – Central Queens United Church Musical Friends invites you to attend a Christmas Carol Service next Sunday, December 19th, at 7 pm. Admission is a good will offering. Masks are required. Please contact the office at 902-964-2221 or Velda at 902-940-7674 to reserve a space.



Rosewood Service will be held this Thursday, December 16th, at 2 pm at Rosewood.

Scent-Free – “No scents make good sense.” Recognizing that some of our church attendees have sensitivity and/or allergic reactions to various fragrant products, you are asked not to use scented products. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

E-Transfers – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept E-Transfers. If you wish to give your offerings through E-Transfer, please send via email to veldabertram@gmail.com.

FundScrip – Today is the last day before 2022 to place your Fundscrip order with Janet. You can reach Janet by phone (902-393-1527) or email (jhowes1969@gmail.com). E-transfers accepted. Promotions for December are: Swiss Chalet/Montana's - 10%; Winner's/Homesense - 8%; Boston Pizza - 10%; Shell - 3%; Staples - 4%; Old Navy/Gap - up to 9%; Giant Tiger - 5%. The first order date for 2022 is Sunday, January 9th.

Christmas Services

Inter-generational Christmas Eve Service	December 24 at 5:30 pm
On-Line Christmas Communion Service	December 25 at 10 am

Central Queens Emmaus Walkers – Come join us as we walk and chat every Thursday at 12 pm. Be sure to check Facebook each week to see where we will be meeting. All are welcome.

Community News

Stratford Community Choir Concert featuring Autumn and Christmas music, will be held today at 2:30 pm at Park Royal United Church. Tickets: \$15/adult; \$20/family available at the door. Masks and Vax Pass required.

Call for Companion Volunteers and Participants! – The Alzheimer Society of PEI is thrilled to announce that they are currently recruiting volunteers and participants for the upcoming Island wide relaunch of their Volunteer Companion Program in January! This program matches a volunteer visitor with a person living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia for weekly visits. The volunteer provides companionship, conversation, and meaningful activity, while the care partner gets to take a break. Want to know more? An in-person information session will be held on Wednesday, December 15th, at 6 pm at the O’Leary Community Complex. Pre-registration required. To register or if you are interested in being a volunteer or a participant, contact Jaclyn Gallant - jgallant@alzpei.ca / 902-214-1722.

Over . . .

Joy: A Poem for the Third Sunday of Advent

by [lindythompsonblog](#)

Children sing

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart!

and I agree with that sentiment.

There is a lot of joy available,
worthy of being mentioned four times,
but the *down* part is true, too.

Very often, the joy is buried deep below the surface,
hidden under layers of information and distraction,
a polished stone under a stack of old newspapers.

So much negative in the world today,
so much trash,
so much fear.

We bury our faces in our phones
because machines are much easier than people,
and the garbage keeps piling on,
and the joy becomes more and more a distant memory.

But joy is our birthright.

The angels told the shepherds they were bringing
good news of a great joy that will be to all people.

The good news is for us,
but we have to make room for it.

Our minds are busier
than a guest house in Bethlehem during a census —
too full for one more family,
even a small one.

The birth is coming,
the joy is promised.

May we make ready,
may we make room.

May we join together,
help each other,

and sanctify space
for God's great gift of joy.