

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 19, 2021 – 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday in Advent – Love

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**

God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,
speak your Word to us now.

God who blessed them with new life,
bless us with great expectation.

God who gave them songs of praise to sing,
receive our joyful praise.

God who loves beyond all measure,
we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

Advent Candle Lighting – Love

Music Video

Today we are lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. We have almost finished our waiting. Jesus is going to be born soon! We talked about the wreath being a circle to remind us of God's unending love. We note, too, that it is covered in greenery to symbolize God's love for us that is always growing. The four candles are blue. We use blue to signify expectancy. Mary's robe is often coloured blue, and we think of Mary waiting to bear a child that she knew was special. The candle we light today is the candle of love. It is hard for us to imagine that God loves us no matter what. It is even harder to imagine that God is love.

(Candle is lit)

Today, let us turn inside to remember that love. Close your eyes or focus on the candle.... Think of love; go to the place inside your body where you find love. Find love, enjoy it, rest in it, offer thanks for it. Take this time to be with the love that God offers.

(Moments of silence)

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

Hymn Hope is a Star VU #7

Prayer of Approach

We become a community where love and acceptance are lived.

Let us now gather in God's community, for God has done great things with us.

God has looked with favour on us.

May we strive to be as generous as God. May our house be welcoming and open to all.

God has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things.

May we give our good things, our best things, back to God.

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

Responsive Reading – Luke 1:47-55

VU #898

*Hymn Once in Royal David's City VU #62 vs 1 & 2

All God's Children

* Hymn Once in Royal David's City VU #62 vs 3 & 4

Call of Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, restore us.

Show us your true face and save us.

We make enemies of the weak and poor and leave them to fend for themselves. You were poor.

Show us your true face and save us.

As a country we have not kept up. We are rightly mocked for our outlandish inequalities. You knew how it was to be treated Less Than.

Show us your true face and save us.

We are caught in a cycle, not understanding mercy. Even our prayers are sometimes vengeful. You taught us to pray.

Show us your true face and save us.

written by Stephanie Dorsey

Silence

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

Emmanuel: God with us...

God, take these gifts and with us create a new world:

Where we allow the "them" to become the "us"

The "those" to become the "us"

**The "really?" to become the "really us!"
We are one body and always must be. Amen.**

written by Stephanie Dorsey

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Anthem

Central Queens Musical Friends

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Responding to the Word

*Hymn People, Look East VU #9

*Franciscan Benediction

*Choral Benediction A Light is Gleaming VU #82

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

nevillejk@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.

Today's Bulletins are placed in loving memory of Dolores (Garcia) Andrews. Lovingly remembered by Kirk Neville and family.

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**.

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 tonight at 7 pm. Admission is a good will offering. Masks are required.



Christmas Services

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

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 – The first order date for 2022 is Sunday, January 9th.

LOVE: A POEM FOR ADVENT

When I was small, love was small, too.

Not small as in limited, but small as in contained, tidy, not far-flung.

I knew exactly whom I loved and who loved me,
and it felt a certain way without variation – safe, warm, pleasant.

I could draw love – crayon hearts around my family, my friends, my pets.
Very defined, very good, very straightforward. That was love when I was small.

I am no longer small, and neither is love. Love bears but a vestige of what it once looked like to me. Love is now wide-ranging, all-encompassing, challenging, and occasionally downright uncomfortable.

The One for whom we wait this Advent season began as a baby. Responding to a baby is easy. Adoration of an infant is understandable. It happens all the time.

But this Savior, for whom we wait, grew up, and we must grow up with him, and our love must be wide-ranging all-encompassing, must evolve from a feeling to an action, in order for us to be the hands, feet and voice of the Love that so relentlessly sought the least, the last, and the lost.

As we prepare ourselves anew for the fresh inbreaking of God incarnate, let us not be dismayed by the stretching and discomfort that come with love lived out loud.

It isn't small, and it isn't tidy, and it isn't always comfortable, but love that goes beyond itself to those on the margins is what the baby in the manger grew to embody.

Go, tell it on the mountain! Love is big, and God has drawn a heart around everyone.

By: *Lindy Thompson*

Over . . .

THE INCREDIBLE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE: BILL'S STORY

None of us can go a single day without having an impact on someone's life. And we can't always predict how what we do to help change a life might wind up changing ours, too.

Take Bill Darnell. Bill's love affair with nature began at camp, but it didn't end there. Far from it. Bill's childhood experience of camp wound up inspiring one of the world's most influential environmental movements.

"Camping had a big effect on me. I grew up in suburbia and didn't have much access to the natural world. Camping was an opportunity to go out and be in nature. It was amazing. Being at camp solidified my strong connection with the natural world," he says.

Bill's early camp experience instilled such a love of nature that when he became an adult, he became an environmental activist. "When I was 25 years old, not far removed from my years in camp, I saw that they were testing nuclear weapons. That was so obviously wrong that I felt I had to do something to stop it," he says.

So Bill and a small group of friends anxiously climbed on board an 85-foot fishing boat later dubbed *Greenpeace*. Together, they set sail for Alaska to stop the testing of a nuclear bomb. Greenpeace as a movement was born.

Bill's story proves that camping experiences in childhood can lead to a lifelong commitment to care for God's creation.

As scientists and activists sound the alarm around climate change and experts report that not spending enough time outside is having an impact on our children's health and well-being, outdoor ministry has never been more crucial. It's just one of the many reasons why Mission & Service really matters.

Your Mission & Service gifts support over two dozen United Church-run camps across the country. Every year, your generosity gives thousands of children an opportunity to go to camp. There, they learn life skills, meet other campers, explore faith, and spend time outside.

Like Bill, some young people may leave camp so impressed by the natural environment that they get on board a movement to take care of it. "Camping made an incredible difference in my life. I know it will make an incredible difference to young people across Canada. I give thanks to those who support it," Bill says.

Please make a gift to Mission & Service today. Your support not only makes a difference right now but also has an impact on the future for all of us who are blessed to live in the beautiful world God created.