

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada  
December 10, 2023 – 10:30 am

Second Sunday in Advent

PEACE

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

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 the Candle of Peace

Hymn Jesus Came Bringing Us Peace

MV #33

Prayer

**Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of the darkness of our times, and may we look for the coming of Jesus into our world.**

**Amen.**

**Bible Presentation** (*Placed during the singing of the Introit*)

**\*Introit**

Hark the Glad Sound

VU #29 vs 1

**\*Call to Worship**

Keep shadows without and light within;

**let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Keep fear without and justice within;

**comfort, comfort your people.**

Keep chaos without and life within;

**may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Keep despair without and hope within;

**deliver us that we may rejoice.**

Come, O Advent God,

**and reveal your promise in us now.**

**\*Hymn**

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

VU #18

**Prayer of Approach**

Comfort us, O God,

**with the comfort that strengthens us for the world.**

Comfort us, O God,

**with the comfort that encourages us to trust you.**

Comfort us, O God,

**with the comfort that inspires us to be messengers of peace.**

**That our world may be transformed, and that it may begin here, in this place and among these people.**

Comfort us, O God,

**with the comfort that renews our living and our worship.**

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

**Responsive Reading** – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

VU #802

**\*Hymn** Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening? All God's Children #91 vs 1 & 2

**Time For All Ages**

**Hymn** Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening? All God's Children #91 vs 3

*Children may retire to Sunday School*

## Call to Transformation and New Life

### Prayer for Transformation and New Life

For the seeds we have planted called "injustice," that destroys the land and the community, where some have and others have nothing,  
**forgive us.**

For the seeds we have planted called "conflict," that ruins the earth and the lives of many, and where only weeping silence can fully tell the story,  
**forgive us.**

For the seeds we have planted called "imbalance," that bears the fruit of frazzled lives where Sabbath way is neglected and restoration is unknown,  
**forgive us.**

For the seeds we have planted called "prejudice," that disfigures the beauty of nature and the faces of your people, where what is said and unsaid disfigures love,  
**forgive us.**

For the seeds we have planted called "faithlessness," that cares nothing for the ground or the lives of your people where blessing is never offered and worth never celebrated,  
**forgive us.**

## Assurance of God's Unending Love

### Presentation of Our Gifts

### Offertory Invitation

### Offertory

\* **Presentation of Offering** As With Gladness Men of Old VU #81 vs 3

### \*Offertory Prayer

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the enrichment of the beloved community. Let these gifts usher peace into this world and signal to the people that God is with us. Amen.**

### Listening for the Word

### Sacred Readings

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Mark 1:1-8**

### Anthem

### Sermon

### Reflective Music

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

### Responding to the Word

\***Hymn** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus VU #2

### \*Blessing

\***Choral Benediction** Glory to God In the Highest MV #124

### 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](mailto:minister@cquc.ca)

### Ministry of Music

**Kirk Neville**

Website <https://cquc.ca/index.htm>  
Phone 902-786-9222  
Email [nevillejk@hotmail.com](mailto:nevillejk@hotmail.com)

### **Church Office**

Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday  
9 am – 12 pm  
Phone 902-964-2221  
Email [office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca)

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

### **Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve December 24 at 10:30 am Communion Service  
December 24 at 5:30 pm Inter-Generational Service

### **Life and Work of Our Church**

**Greg’s Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 am – 12 pm. 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](mailto:minister@cquc.ca) for an appointment.

**FundScrip** – Janet will be placing an order today. This is the last date to order for 2023. The first date to order for 2024 is Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. You can reach Janet Howes by email [jhowes1969@gmail.com](mailto:jhowes1969@gmail.com) or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

**FundScrip**

**Social Time** – Join us next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, for a social time after the worship service. Bring sandwiches or sweets to share. Let’s enjoy a wonderful time socializing together.

**Sunday School** has resumed. Anyone who can help with this important ministry, please contact Greg at 902-964-2291 or by email at [minister@cquc.ca](mailto:minister@cquc.ca). Help us to continue this very important ministry.

**Christmas Carol Concert** – You are invited to a Christmas Carol concert next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Central Queens Musical Friends with guests Sarah Weeks, Brad & Anika Trivers, Wade & Braiden Campbell, winna Reardon, Marsha Weeks and Greg & Ellen Davis. Concert starts at 7 pm. Free-will offering. Come and enjoy the reason for the season.

**E-Transfers** – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept e-transfers. If you prefer to give your offerings through e-transfer, please send via email to [veldabertram@gmail.com](mailto:veldabertram@gmail.com).

### **Scent-Free** – “No scents make good sense”

Please refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and fragrant personal care products as they can trigger serious health issues for those with fragrance allergies. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

**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.

**Weekly Bulletins** can be sponsored by you in celebration or remembrance of a loved one. There is a signup sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00.

**Rosewood Service** will be held on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm. The Elders will be assisting Greg in leading the service.

**Pop Can Pull Tabs** – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collecting pop can pull tabs which are then given to the Daughters of the Nile women’s organization. The funds go to the Shriners Hospital in Montreal where they are used to buy reading materials for children in the hospital. Your pull tab collections can be dropped off at the church. Thank you.

**Food Bank** – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off any Sunday or during church office hours in the wooden box at the church entrance. *Over.....*

## Community News

**Winsloe United Church Ceilidh "Sounds of Christmas"** presented by The Four Hearts and the Jack will be held this afternoon, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

**Blue Christmas** – As Christmas decorations go up, tree lights are lit, and people celebrate in festive ways, we acknowledge the reality that for some it is difficult to enter into and to engage this ‘joyous’ time of the year. The death of a loved one, an illness or other significant changes that have been experienced, all profoundly affect the way in which one experiences the Christmas Season. On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, there will be a ‘Longest Night of the Year Service’ (Blue Christmas) at Park Royal United Church. You, your family, and friends are invited to gather with us for a time of worship and remembrance, as we pray for, and experience together, God’s presence, comfort and peace, the true gifts of Christmas. Light refreshments will be served in the foyer following the service. For more information, please call the Church Office at 902-894-9656.

### **Prepare Sunday–Second Sunday in Advent** By: *Philip C. Kolin*

Prepare the geography of your soul  
For the caller of every ewe,  
The shepherd of verdant proclamations:  
Water the wastelands of unforgiveness  
With torrential tears  
See dust turn to dew.  
Level the mountains of peaked pride  
So they become grazing fields  
Feeding the least and hungriest of these,  
All those you have outcasted, spurned.  
Smooth out the crags and cracks of your words  
Feel the balm of God’s breath in your repentance.  
Go to the Jordan on the other side of your doubts  
And be baptized in a font of faith  
Hasten all these preparations and then  
Wait and watch for one with untied sandal straps  
Coming to embrace you.

### Second Sunday in Advent

