

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

November 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

25 After Pentecost

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

Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us.

Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvellous works and steadfast love.

Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

*Hymn "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

VU #299

Prayer of Approach

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for

those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in times of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honour, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us.

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.**

Psalm 123

VU #847

***Hymn** "Small Things Count

VU #361 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn “Small Things Count

VU #361 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God trusts us with the resources necessary for all of us to be well and to have our needs met. The Holy One honours us by inviting us to participate in God’s reign with the generous sharing of gifts. Let us offer our time, talent and treasure to the kin-dom of God.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Will Take What You Offer”

MV #196

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Judges 4:1–7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Matthew 25:14–30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the

five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all life and each life,
we thank you that you are with us every day,
in each challenge and opportunity.
In our weakness, you are strength.
In our confusion, you light the path ahead.
In our questions, you offer wisdom for our choices.
Stay with us in these days when so much seems uncertain,
and help us to serve you faithfully, when and as we are able.

God of loving kindness:
thank you for each moment of joy and celebration in our lives:
for love given and received, for friendships which bring meaning and
happiness, even from a distance, and for family members who show us
glimpses of unconditional love. In all our relationships and interactions,
keep us mindful of your call to see you in each another.

God of the nations,
we worry for the world filled with conflict and division,
when the earth itself is put at risk by destructive human actions.
Guide diplomats and politicians to look beyond short term interests,
and keep the well-being of vulnerable people and the planet in focus.
Open our leaders' minds and hearts with wisdom

to develop more equitable ways of ordering our common life.

God of healing:

we pray for those who are suffering in these days when winter is closing in.

Draw close to all who fear the future.

Comfort those with pain or problems that seem overwhelming.

Shine the light of your love into our sadness and sorrows and show us how to comfort and support each other.

God of life:

we thank you for your saints of every age who continue to inspire us, and for all who have meant the world to us and now live with you.

Keep us in communion with them

and, at the last, bring us all to dwell together in your light. Amen.

***Hymn** "Take My Life and Let it Be"

VU #506

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.

***Benediction**

As you go on your journey...

Trust in God.

Use your talents.
Multiply the impact of your gifts.
Enter the Holy One's joy.

In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ.

***Choral Benediction** "Deep in Our Hearts" MV #154

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.