

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

November 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

26 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

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with gladness and singing!

God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper and Shepherd. Bless God's name.

Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.

Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer and Friend. Bless God's name!

***Hymn** "Make a Joyful Noise" VU #820

Prayer of Approach

God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do.

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 100

VU #824

***Hymn "Who Am I"**

Arranged by Linnea Good

All God's Children

Music

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God has blessed us in Christ and in creation with all that we need to thrive. Yet Jesus' story reminds us there are so many in this world who do not have what they need. What we offer today will reach out to touch lives in need with the love of God.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "We Will Take What You Offer"

MV #196

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kin-dom. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall

lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31–46

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me

clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord Jesus Christ,
you proclaimed God’s kin-dom among us and within us.

In the power of the Spirit, your love is always at work,
bringing good out of evil and life out of death.
We thank you that your love never lets us go.

You came as one who was hungry and thirsty.
Where people live on the streets today, suffer from hunger, or
beg for a meal:

your kin-dom come.
Your will be done.

You came as a stranger in need of welcome.
Where people live lonely lives or feel like strangers in a strange
land; where people face rejection for the colour of their skin or
the language they speak:

your kin-dom come.
Your will be done.

You came as one who was naked.
Where people lack enough clothing, shelter or life's basic
resources; where people live without dignity, exposed to every
kind of pain and hardship:

your kingdom come.
Your will be done.

You came as one who was broken.
Where people feel pain in body, mind or spirit;
where someone grieves the loss of a beloved or the future they
planned; in places where disaster has struck and desperation has
moved in:

your kingdom come.
Your will be done.

You came as one who was in prison.
Where people are treated unfairly, targeted or tortured;
where justice has failed and people are punished with cruelty:

your kingdom come.
Your will be done.

You came as a Shepherd.
Where people are led astray or nations are ruled by corrupt or
greedy leaders, where there is no peace in the land:

your kin-dom come.
Your will be done.

You came to us all, proclaiming the kin-dom of God.
And so we lift up these prayers in your name
knowing that your kin-dom is drawing near
and that we meet you in the face of those who cry out to us.
Help us see your face in theirs. Amen

***Hymn** "When I Needed a Neighbour"

VU #600

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, may you recognize God in the stranger. May you extend hospitality and care to your neighbour. And may you trust in the reign of God forever. Amen.

***Choral Benediction**

“O A Song Must Rise”

MV #142

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.