

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

October 22, 2023

10:30 a.m.

21 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 asked 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** "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 v. 3

Call to Worship

Let us sing to the LORD a new song.

We will bless God's name from day to day.

Let us declare God's marvelous deeds among all the people;

for God is great and greatly to be praised.

Let us praise God for God's strength and beauty.

We will bring God honour and glory as we worship God's holy name.

***Hymn** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

VU #220

Prayer of Approach

Revealing God, you show us the way of life, lead us with love, and move us to compassion. May our hearts be transformed by your Spirit and by your Truth. Let our actions and attitudes demonstrate your kingdom. May justice and peace be our hope. Let repair, restoration, and reconciliation be our aim. Make your presence among us known. Let us prepare to receive it. Amen.

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 99 Paraphrase

Jump up, get up and **KNOW THIS**. God reigns.
**Cherubim encircle the throne of God, and the whole earth
quakes.**
God is awesome.
The whole earth praises God.

A good ruler loves Justice and Equity,
as God has established righteousness and Justice.
Praise God.
Bless the name of God.

Moses and Aaron were your priests, and Samuel heard you when you called.

You protected them. You gave them a cloud by day and fire by night.

You shall protect your people.

They remembered what you did, and they remembered your decrees of Justice.

You, God, are loving and forgiving,
but you also vindicate the oppressed and avenge evil.

You are worthy of praise.

God reigns.

***Hymn** "I Love to Tell the Story"

VU #343 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story"

VU # 343 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Psalm 96:3 encourages us to "Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvellous works among all the peoples." Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator's provision by affirming that we have more than enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world and God's church. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

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

MV 196

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kin-dom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 33:12–23

Moses said to the LORD, ‘See, you have said to me, “Bring up this people”; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, “I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.” Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.’ He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ And he said to him, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’

The LORD said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The LORD"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the LORD continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

Matthew 22:15–22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of our hearts and our hopes,
as the season changes and the land prepares for winter,
we thank you for autumn goodness,
for brilliant colours, birds flying south,
the crackle of fallen leaves and the taste of this year's harvest.
We are grateful for your steadfast love amid so much that
changes.

Draw close to all those who find this season unsettling,
and help us reach out to those who need us.

God of goodness,
may we share your love.

God of our imaginations and insights,
we thank you for all the ways you inspire human minds
to create things which bring beauty and joy,
as well as relief and healing for the earth and its people.
Guide those who explore possibilities and develop new products
to consider the costs as well as the benefits.
Inspire us all to consider the effects of what we enjoy
on the land and the lives of others.
God of goodness,

may we share your love.

God of neighbours and neighbourhoods,
we praise you for those who work to maintain healthy
communities:

for teachers and librarians,
healthcare workers and administrators,
coaches and construction workers,
farmers and labourers,
store clerks and wait staff.

We take them for granted until there are too few.

Give each worker a sense of their value to the common good
and sustain them in their efforts.

Make us good neighbours to all who serve our community
and remind us to say thank you.

God of goodness,

may we share your love.

God of comfort and compassion,
we pray for all those who are struggling this autumn, whatever
the reason.

We remember before you those facing illness or waiting for
treatment...

those who worry about winter expenses or finding shelter...

those who are grieving the loss of someone close...

and those whose mental health is under pressure these days...

Awaken us to the needs of those at risk in our communities
and help us respond with your comfort and compassion

God of goodness,
may we share your love. Amen.

***Hymn** “Be Thou My Vision”

VU #642

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**

May truth gentle your heart.
May truth find itself in your speech.
May truth guide your actions and attitudes.
May truth release you to be fully you.
May truth compel you to greater love and compassion.
May truth fortify you as you go into the world as God's agent of
healing and hope.
Live in truth, go in peace,
Be love.
In the name of Jesus the Christ.

***Choral Benediction** “Deep In Our Hearts”

MV #154

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*