

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

April 14, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

"Peace be with you."

When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

Let our lives be witnesses of these things.

Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love.

***Hymn** "Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing

VU #223

Prayer of Approach

Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart so that we can meditate in your peace; abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice; and be made new by your love. In your name, we pray.

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.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 4 VU #727

Hymn "Jesus Came, a Child Like Me" VU #583 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "Jesus Came, a Child Like Me" VU #583 v.3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

All are invited to give joyously to the church that bears witness to Christ's love.

Let us give with a joyful heart.

God's generous love has given us every good and gracious gift.

We offer our gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.

Now, let us be a blessing to others in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

VU #540

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Acts 3:12–19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

1 John 3:1–7

See what love God has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one

who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24:36b–48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God our Maker,
Source of Easter power and hope,
You have walked with your faithful people through many
generations,
people facing challenge and uncertainty,
people seeking your purpose and promise.
We still face challenges and uncertainty, even with Easter in our
hearts.

Walk with us and with those for whom we pray for this day,
so that your resurrecting power may lead us in lives of
faithfulness.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for children and young people
who must think about the future in uncertain times,
facing threats old and new.
Give them hope rooted in the knowledge that their lives matter to
you.

Show them how to make a difference in the world,
whatever threats they face as they grow.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for people for whom age or experience, illness or
disability

create barriers to full participation in your world.
Surround each one in pain or despair with your comfort
and renew in each one a sense of dignity and purpose.
Show them how much they matter to you and to us.
In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all those facing grief and any kind of loss.
Give them strength and comfort.
We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their
control:
natural disaster and environmental threats,
conflict and violence,
economic hardship.
Give courage to those facing these challenges,
and wisdom to those who lead,
so that wellbeing may be restored
and hope for the future prevail.
In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,
hear our prayer.

As signs of spring emerge, we pray for your creation,
for creatures losing habitat and unique species at risk,
for oceans clogged with plastic,
and the earth aching for moisture as the climate warms.
Jesus, you are the firstborn of all creation;
Help us to honour you by caring for the earth and its fragile
balances
in the ways we live and the priorities we set.
In these ways, too, we would be your disciples.
In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,
hear our prayer. Amen and Amen.

***Hymn** “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours”

MV #171

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.

***Sung Benediction** “Lead Me, God”

VU #662

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**