

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

**August 4, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Eleventh of Pentecost**

**Baptism**

**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** "I Can Feel You Near Me God"

MV #48 v. 1

### **Call to Worship**

We gather today in the presence of God, rejoicing in the gift of new life and the sacred act of baptism.

**We come with hearts filled with gratitude and joy.**

Let us celebrate the love of God, who calls us each by name and marks us as God's own.

**We come to witness the promises of God's grace and to embrace a beloved member of our family in Christ.**

As the waters of baptism are poured out, may we remember our own baptism and the commitment to live as Christ's own.

**We pledge to support, nurturing all, in the faith and walking together on the journey of faith.**

Let us worship God with gladness, giving thanks for the blessings of new beginnings and the covenant of love we share.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn** “God, We Praise You for the Morning”

VU #415

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Gracious God, we give thanks for your presence among us. In the chaos of our lives, you provide calm, healing and sanctuary. Inspire us to be transformed as you immerse us in your everlasting love and relentless presence. Your Spirit fills the atmosphere as we gather in your name from pew to park and from sanctuary to sofa. Open our receptivity to your word and enflame our imagination of and participation in your kingdom. May it be so.**

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 51:1–12

VU #776

## **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

### **Time with the Children**

**Hymn** “I Am a Child of God”

MV #157

### **The Statement** (Minister)

Hear the command of the risen Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;  
and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mtt.28:18-20)

In baptism we celebrate God’s love, a love revealed in the life,  
death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, a love which has surrounded  
us from our beginning.

In baptism we proclaim that God has acted to save us.

God washes us in cleansing waters and brings us into the church,  
the living body of Christ. When we baptize children, we dedicate them to God,  
knowing that even though we may fail, God will not; that God will continue,  
through the Holy Spirit, the work begun this day,  
a work in which life triumphs over death.

**Presentation** [Clerk of Session]

On behalf of the Central Queens Faith Community,  
I present James, the son of Nathalie and Brydon,  
for initiation into the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism.

### **Questions and Promises**

Minister: Do you desire to have your child baptized into this  
Christian community?

### **Parents' Response: I do**

Minister: Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom  
of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and  
walking humbly with her God?

### **Parents' Response: I do**

Minister: Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the  
life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an  
appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

### **Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.**

Minister: Will you teach your child to honour the faith questions  
that belong to him/her/them throughout  
his/her/them life?

### **Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.**

Minister: Will you journey with your child to discover the  
wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

### **Parents' Response: I will, God being my helper.**

*[Congregation, please rise.]*

**Minister:** Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

### **Congregational Response**

**We promise our love support and care.**

### **Profession of Faith**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to God.**  
Let us give our thanks to God.  
**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

*(Water is poured into the font)*

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation; by water comes the growth of the earth. Through water you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child, Jesus, was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### The Baptism

**James Brydon**, I baptize you in the name of the Father (creator), and the Son,(redeemer) and of the Holy Spirit (sustainer). **Amen**

**James Brydon**, with the sign of the cross, you are claimed as Christ's forever. **Amen**

**James Brydon**, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness to God who created you. **Amen**

### **Blessing**

May the blessing of the One God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. Amen

### **Giving of a Candle**

Receive this candle. It symbolizes that in baptism we have passed from darkness to light. Shine as a light in this world, to the glory of God.

**Presentation of Certificate, Bible & Prayer Shawl** [Representative of the Church]

### **Welcome**

Into the household of faith,  
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**We are members of the Body of Christ.**

**We are inheritors of God's promise.**

**In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

### **Baptismal Benediction**

VU# 454

**May God who creates you give you light.**

**May God who sustains you make you wise.**



**May God who protects you give you joy.  
May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

The gifts of God bless us, and the invitation of God is to share those blessings with generosity, gratitude, trust, and love. Let us give of our time, talent, and treasure from the abundance of God's provision to us.

### **\*Presentation of Offering**

#### **\* Offertory**

#### **\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.  
Let them give you honour and glory as we serve the needs  
of your people. And let the called and redeemed of God  
say, Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

Source of all wisdom, in the midst of all our distractions, focus our attention on you. In the midst of competing voices, attune our ears to your Word, for we seek bread for our journey through Jesus Christ, the Bread of life. Amen.

## Sacred Scripture

### **Ephesians 4:1–16**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When Jesus ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Child of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in

deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

### **John 6:24–35**

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God has set the seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom God has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."'" Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but God who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of all creation,  
the world is filled with your goodness.

All nature sings your praise.

We give you thanks for the stillness of night and the rest it brings,  
and for days filled with energy and creativity.

Thank you for summer with its changing rhythms that renew us.

We thank you, too, for new opportunities you create among us,  
and for new relationships that enrich our lives.

God of grace and goodness,

**Renew our trust in you.**

You hold the future in your hands, O God,  
and so we put our trust in your guidance for these changing times.

We pray for those who work on the seas and in the fields,  
providing food the world needs.

We know their work is uncertain these days,  
so give them courage and strength to meet the challenges.

We pray for those who work in essential services,  
often in demanding or dangerous situations.

We depend on their willingness to serve,  
so encourage them, O God.  
Help them remain trustworthy  
as they face so many different calls for service.

God of grace and goodness,  
**Renew our trust in you.**

We pray for leaders and policy makers in our country and around the world.

Make them alert to the temptations of their offices  
so that power is not abused .  
Awaken them to the needs of vulnerable community members.  
Keep all leaders trustworthy,  
so that justice is maintained without discrimination or favoritism.

God of grace and goodness,  
**Renew our trust in you.**

Gracious God,  
As we have received, free us to give.  
As we have been loved, open us to love others.  
As we have known peace, help us make peace.  
In the freedom we enjoy, use us to work for freedom with justice for all.  
These are gifts of your reign taking shape among us. Amen.

**\*Hymn** “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

VU #641

### **Changing the Light**

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**

Go, in the assurance that you are redeemed.

Go, with compassion, courage, and conviction that a beloved community is possible and waits on your participation.

Go, in peace and hope, knowing that God is with us. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction**

**May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

**Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavour.**

**Lift your eyes to see God's face, know God's grace forever.**

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.