

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 22, 2024 – 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love

Central Queens' Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people, celebrating 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

*Introit

Tune: MV #79

Will you come, gather in?

There is Love – all around us.

For the proud have been shattered.

And the mystery has found us.

Will you come, gather in?

Bible Presentation (*Placed during the Introit*)

Lighting the Candle of Love

Hymn

Hope is a Star

VU #7 vs 4

Reader

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, we come with love as a community of faith.

We watch, we wait, we wonder.

When we feel God's unfailing love, we are able to give love – and receive it from – our families, our friends, our community of faith, and yes, even those we find hard to love. There is enough love for all.

We experience God's love in the greatest gift for all of us, in the birth of Jesus, who is bringing love into the world.

As we light the 4th candle in our wreath, we breathe in the spirit of love.

Prayer

God of Love, we give thanks for your unfailing love and for the gift of love in the human relationships that give our lives meaning. May we come to the Manger filled with your infinite love. Amen.

Hymn

A Candle is Burning

VU #6 vs 4

*Call to Worship

Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,

For in the Body of Christ we belong.

Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

For in the Body of Christ we find peace.

Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

In love, we gather to worship our God.

*Hymn

The First Nowell

VU #91

Prayer of Approach

Sacred Weaver of Life, you stitch together the fragments of our memories, binding our stories into a holy tapestry. Each patch, a unique piece of our journey, is lovingly placed, creating beauty in diversity. We honour these

Prayer of Approach (continued)

sacred threads that tie us to one another and to you, O Loving Creator. May this quilt of connection wrap us in warmth, bringing comfort and peace in this season of reflection.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Responsive Reading – Luke 1:47-55 *Mary's Song*

VU #898-899

***Hymn** Light One Candle All God's Children Sing #13 vs 1 & 2

Time for All Ages

Hymn Light One Candle All God's Children Sing #13 vs 3

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Divine Light and Love, the weight of this season, the sorrows of our past, and the burdens of present and future expectations press heavily upon us. We hide in the shadows, turning away from your light. We choose isolation over the joy of shared love and community. Open our hearts to a new way, one filled with grace and lightness. Draw us back to the Body of Christ, away from the lonely comfort of spiritual solitude. Amen.

Assurance of God's Unending Love

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

***Offertory** You Nourish Us VU #545

***Presentation of Offering**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of all Joy, Holy Hope, we delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbours. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Readings

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-45

Anthem *Star-Child*

Sermon

Solo by Rachelle Belair *Il est né*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** Angels We have Heard on High VU #38

***Blessing**

***Choral Benediction** Joy to the World VU #59 vs 1

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

Ministers All of us
Clergy **Rev Greg Davis**
Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 am – 12 pm
Office Phone 902-964-2291
Email minister@cquc.ca
Ministry of Music **Kirk Neville**
Website <https://cquc.ca/index.htm>
Phone 902-786-9222
Email nevillejk@hotmail.com
Church Office
Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
9 am – 12 pm
Phone 902-964-2221
Email office@cquc.ca

A Warm Welcome to All – We are delighted you have joined us. May God’s word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Today’s Bulletins are placed in loving memory of Oscar Lajeunesse. Lovingly remembered by Lois Lajeunesse and family.

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 pm Communion Service

Life and Work of Our Church

Greg’s Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 am – 12 pm. If anyone is in the hospital or would like a visit from Greg, please call him at 902-964-2291. If you wish to meet with Greg outside the scheduled hours, please call 902-964-2291 or email minister@cquc.ca for an appointment.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, December 29th, are:
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 *God Blesses the boy Samuel*
Psalm 148 (VU #871) *Let the whole creation praise God.*
Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness*
Luke 2:41-52 *The boy Jesus learns at the temple.*

These are made available to you should you wish to read them during the upcoming week.

Christmas Carol Concert tonight at 7 pm. Admission will be a free-will offering. Come and enjoy this special evening filled with musical talent and seasonal favourites. There is no storm date.

Sunday Worship Cancellations – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Mitten Tree – Time is running out to fill the Tree! It will be up until Christmas Eve. All items will be distributed to our local schools.

FundScrip – The first order date for 2025 is January 5th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

Scent-Free – “No scents make good sense”
Please refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and fragrant personal care products as they can trigger serious health issues for those with fragrance allergies. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

E-transfers – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept e-transfers. If you prefer to give your offerings through e-transfer, please send via email to veldabertram@gmail.com.

Sunday School Leader & Helpers are Needed – We are still looking for someone to lead Sunday School and others to help out. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

Official Board Meeting – The next Official Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th, at 7:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Meeting – Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025. There will be sandwiches and sweets after the worship service; then the meeting will follow that. **The deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 8th.** Please email them to office@cquc.ca. Thank you.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off in the wooden box at the church entrance any Sunday or during church office hours.

Office Church Directory – In an effort to keep contact information as up to date as possible, please give Trudy any changes to your contact information. If you would like to be added to our directory or need to update your info, please contact Trudy at office@cquc.ca or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221.

Bulletin Deadline–Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday evening**. Bulletin items can be emailed to office@cquc.ca.

Camp Abegweit is seeking passionate and dedicated individuals for the seasonal roles of Camp Director and Assistant Director. As key leaders in the camp community, you will have the opportunity to shape the experience of the campers and staff while fostering a supportive and engaging environment. Applications can be submitted online at <https://campabby.ca/jobs> or submit an email and cover letter to alexcorbett@campabby.ca.

Community News

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh on Sunday, January 5th, at 2 pm. Host Jacinta MacDonald, with the Winsloe United House Band, welcomes special guest Blake Crockett and guest drummer Todd Gallant. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.