

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

**December 8, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Advent II**

**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**

**\*Introit**

tune MV #79

Will you come, gather in,  
Though the stars -- maybe falling?  
Come in peace, there is a promise.  
Will you come, gather in?

**Bible Presentation** (placed during Introit)

**Lighting the Candle of Peace**

**Hymn** "Hope is a Star"

VU #7 v. 2

On this second Sunday of advent, we come in  
peace as a community of faith.

**We watch, we wait, we wonder.**

Let peace begin with us. In every breath we take,  
may we live in the peace of God's promise to be  
with us always.

**We wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to come into the world.**

As we light the second candle in our wreath, we take a moment to  
breathe in the spirit of peace.

*Take a breath, then light the candle.*

**Prayer**

**God of peace, on this second Sunday of Advent,  
may you fill us with the peace that only you can  
bring. Help us to live each moment in peace with  
one another. Amen.**

**Hymn** "A Candle is Burning"

VU #6 v. 2

## Call to Worship

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"  
**We come, ready to make space in our hearts and lives for God's presence.**

Through water and Spirit, God renews and restores, inviting us into new life.

**We come as a community of faith, called to walk in God's ways.**

Let us worship the One who brings salvation and makes all things new.

**We lift our voices in praise and prepare the way for the Lord!**

**\*Hymn** "On Jordan's Bank"

VU #20

## Prayer of Approach

**God, we thank you for showing up for us, just like you promised. You've brought light into our darkness and guided us toward peace. As we come together today, fill our hearts with hope and peace. Help us to follow your way and share the gifts of love and gratitude to all.**

**Be with us now and always.**

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** Luke 1:68–79

VU #900

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

**Hymn** “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

VU #444

## **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 the following *child* for initiation into the body of Christ  
through the Sacrament of Baptism:

**Maisie Eliza, child of Sarah and Jeffrey.**

**Questions and Promises**

Minister: Do you desire to have Maisie baptized into the  
Christian Faith?

**Parents' Response: I do**

Minister: Will you encourage Maisie 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 her 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 her to honour the faith questions that belong to her throughout his life?

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

Minister: Will you journey with Maisie 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

### **Introduction**

**Maisie Eliza**, you are wonderful, you are marvelous, you are one of a kind, a child of God, and God loves you lots! It's because of God's love that we baptize you this day.

### **The Baptism**

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

N, **Maisie Eliza**, with the sign of the cross, you are claimed as Christ's forever. **Amen.**

N, **Maisie Eliza**, 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**

As we share in God's grace, we seek ways to share our gratitude with God and our neighbours. Through prayer and pondering, we discover new ways to give our offerings of talents, treasures, and time with a joyful spirit.

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory** “You Nourish Us”

VU #545

**\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**God of peace,  
we bring these gifts as signs of our gratitude and hope.  
Use them to bring healing, comfort, and light to the world.  
Guide us to be instruments of your peace,  
serving others with love and joy.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**Listening for the Word**

**Prayer for Understanding**

Holy God,  
through your Word and Spirit,  
you reveal yourself across generations.  
In Christ, we see your Living Word.  
Open our hearts today,  
that we may follow you faithfully. Amen.

**Sacred Scripture**

**Malachi 3:1–4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,  
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.  
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he

is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

### **Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

**Responding to the Word**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**\*Hymn** “Love Divine, all Loves Excelling”

VU #333

**\*Benediction**

May the Spirit of Light,  
the Christ of Love,  
and the God of Joy  
infuse our souls with peace and a song of thanksgiving  
as we seek the presence of God in our world.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Joy to the World”

VU #59 v. 4

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.