

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

February 18, 2024

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

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** "Come All You People"

MV #2 v. 2

Call to Worship

The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kin-dom.

With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

Embrace your belovedness.

We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

Come then, as the beloved and worship God.

***Hymn** "Forty days and Forty Nights"

VU #114

Prayer of Approach

God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people.

You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kin-dom. Amen and 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.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 25:1-10

VU #752

***Hymn** "Jesus Came, a Child Like Me" All God's Children Sing vv. 1, 2, 3

All God's Children

Hymn “Jesus Came, a Child Like Me” All God's Children Sing vv. 1, 2, 3

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own pride. Help us to reclaim our spiritual centre as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends, through wilderness and desert, through sacraments born of water, you are a child of God held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator. Remember the goodness of God. Remember a path has been made for you. Remember you are not alone. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands” VU #537

***Offertory Prayer**

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kin-dom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the

clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

In our prayers today, we pray for each other, for help and strength on life's journey.

We pray for those who struggle to find enough food for each day,
and for those who eat too much;
for those involved in scientific research and agricultural
development,
for those involved in growing, processing and distributing food;
for ourselves and the meals that we share.
How can we make choices for life?.....

We pray for those who take unnecessary risks and put their own
and others lives in danger;
for those who live with life threatening illness;
for those who work in emergency, medical and mental health
services;
for ourselves and for whom we care.
How can we make choices for life?....

We pray for those who are tempted to take the easy path, but
compromise principles;
for those in power whose decisions have far reaching
consequences;
for those who have no freedom of choice;
for ourselves and the people who depend on us;
how can we make choices for life?....

In a time of quiet, we bring our own prayers to God.....

How can we make choices for life?

**Help us to embrace life unafraid, knowing that your spirit is
president to lead and support us. Amen.**

***Hymn** "Called By Earth and Sky"

MV #135

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**

Go forth to claim your belovedness, trusting that the God who provided Jesus with strength to overcome the temptations of the desert is the very God who will guide you and lead you this day and always. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Dance with the Spirit”

MV #156

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.