

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

**January 14, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Second After Epiphany**

**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 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

VU #567 v. 1

### Call to Worship

We praise you, O God, for you are our God, and we are your people.

**Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

Search us and know us, Creator, remove us from shadows into your presence.

**Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

Place your hand upon us, Gracious One, as we worship you and minister in your name.

**Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

\*Hymn "Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart"

VU #378

### Prayer of Approach

**Holy God, we acknowledge your presence among us. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your love and let your**

**grace thrust us to renewal and righteousness. Raise us up so that we may stand in spirit and truth for your glory.**

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 139:1–6, 13–18

VU# 861

**\*Hymn** “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

VU# 299 vv. 1, 2

### **All God's Children**

**Hymn** “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

VU# 299 vv. 3, 4

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Generosity**

The generous life rests on gratitude and trust in God's abundance. As we give, we acknowledge that we have communally received more than enough to meet our collective needs. Our offerings serve to realize the reign of God's kin-dom on the earth.

## **Offertory**

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

**\* Offertory "We Will Take What You Offer" MV #196**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Generous God, cultivate and nurture gratitude and trust in us. May our gifts be used for the benefit of the kin-dom and all creation in your name. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel!

Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ Then the LORD said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.’

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything

from me of all that he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.’

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

### **John 1:43–51**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’

Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

### **Anthem**

## Sermon

## Reflective Music

### Responding to the Word

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all life and each life,  
Each week our prayers combine with those of others  
in many different places.  
We face different challenges  
and yet we long for many of the same things.

Thank you for honouring our prayers with the gift of your  
Spirit, so that we can find both strength and wisdom in you.

Today we remember before you  
people living face to face with war and violence,  
in places where hatred has been stirred up  
and fear stalks people on their own streets.  
We pray for all those displaced by conflict,  
seeking refuge among us or in camps and communities around  
the world: God, speak to us a word of peace:  
**embrace us with your love.**

We bring to mind  
people struggling in these uncertain economic times,  
those who have lost their jobs or worry about making ends meet:  
God, speak to us a word of reassurance:

**embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you  
people facing discrimination and social prejudice every day,  
those who are bullied at school, at work or at home,  
and those who are made ashamed of who they are:  
God, speak to us a word of dignity:

**embrace us with your love.**

We hold up before you  
people facing illness and suffering in their lives  
or in the lives of those they love,  
those struggling with disability and lack of access or needed  
resources,  
and those who know grief or anxiety:  
God, speak to us a word of healing:

**embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you  
your whole creation and its many vulnerable facets and faces.  
Teach us how to care for the world you love  
so we may live together wisely:  
God, speak to us a word of wisdom:

**embrace us with your love.**

**\*Hymn** “I, The Lord of Sea and Sky”

VU #509



## 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 in the peace of being fully known by God.  
Go in the hope that God has in you to transform the world.  
Go in the love of neighbour and friend.  
Go in the assurance that God still goes with you. Amen.

\*Choral Benediction “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958

### Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.