

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

June 9, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Third After Pentecost

Confirmation

Holy Communion

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.

The Community Gathers

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 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

VU #400

*Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of God and one another.

The love of God gives us our place.

We gather here in the presence of mystery.

The love of God gives us our place.

We gather here in the presence of Jesus and all those who have traveled this way before us.

The love of God gives us our place.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

VU #509

Prayer of Approach

O God, in you we live and move and have our being.

With you we are always at home.

Help us, through Christ,

to know and experience this reality

**with every cell in our bodies,
so that with Christ and in Christ
we might love you and worship you
with all our hearts.**

Hymn “Walk with Me”

VU #649

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace.

Dear God, creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness from you, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Words of Grace (2 Corinthians 4:13)

“Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture— “I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and therefore we also speak” in the affirming knowledge that when we turn to God with our shortcomings, we are renewed in God’s Love by the grace of Christ. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Faith (Confirmation)

Minister

By the action of Baptism, we are marked as children of God and members of the body of Christ. By the symbol of water, which

bought forth life at creation and cleansed the earth in the flood; by the power of God's Spirit, we are reminded that we are cleansed and nurtured by the never-failing stream, welling up to eternal life. In the act of Confirmation, those baptized come before the community to renew the covenant of baptism. By this act, these men and women profess their faith in God, revealed in Jesus and active through the Spirit, and commit themselves to the worship and work of the body of Christ.

Church Representative: Clerk of Session

We have inquired of these persons and found that they desire to reaffirm their Baptismal Vows in Christ's Church and in this church community of faith, which we know as Central Queen United Church. I present these persons to you that they may do that now:

Alex Trivers, Braden Corbett, Evan Weeks, and Isaac Tweel

Questions of those Affirming their Baptismal Vows

Minister:

Beloved children of God, have no fear. God, who knew you before you were born and who was and will be active in your baptism, is present with you now. God will bless and strengthen you anew by the Spirit, so that you may increase in knowledge of God and be empowered to do God's will in the world.

I ask you therefore, before God and this faith community:

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus the Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus the Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your sisters and brothers in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment Congregation Stands

Let us pledge to these persons our continued support and care.
We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

Affirmation of our faith

VU 918

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 celebrate God's presence,
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.

The act of reaffirming Baptismal Faith

Candidate kneels

Minister

By the gift of your Spirit, O God, strengthen N., that he may be true to you all his/her life. **Amen.**

Live in the world in the power of God that you may act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bible Clerk of Session

N., receive this Bible and with your sisters and brothers in Christ, continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

Prayer for the Candidates

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on these young people who today affirmed their baptismal vows. Watch over them and guide them as they continue to grow in faith. Remind us of the promises of your own baptism and renew our trust in you. Strengthen us to do your will, and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Mark 3:20–35

the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' — for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

We who were once far off has been brought near through the gift of life that comes to us through Christ Jesus. Let us bring our offerings to God, as a way of saying "thank you" for all that God has done. Your morning offering will now be presented.

Offertory "Grant Us, God, the Grace" VU #540

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

O God, we give you thanks that you are our dwelling place. In you we live and move and have our being. As we offer you our gifts, help us to reach out into your world with hands that heal and hearts that reconcile. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbours, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens,
expressing praise to you,

**Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Hosanna, among us**

Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbours, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the

lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection.

Enliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth,
we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**Our Creator, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kin-dom 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
trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

The body of Christ broken for you.
The Cup of Blessing poured out for you.

Come for all is ready, this table knows no bounds, all
are welcome!

All are Welcome to the Table

Prayer after Communion

**God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us
one body. Bind us together by your Spirit that we might live into
your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in
compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.**

***Hymn** “There's a Spirit in the Air” VU #582

Changing of 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.

***Blessing**

**Let us leave this place
knowing that wherever we go,
God is there, at home in the whole creation.
May the blessing of God -
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer -
be with us in all the places of our lives,
this day and always. Amen.**

Choral Benediction “Go, Make a Diff'rence”

MV #209

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.