

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

**May 26, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Trinity Sunday**

**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 "Lord, "Listen to Your Children Praying" VU #400

### Call to Worship

Credit the Holy One with glory and power!

**Give God the honour due with worshipful reverence!**

The Voice speaks and we hear.

The Voice thunders and creation moves.

**The Voice is strong and mighty, secure and majestic.**

The Living Water refreshes us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

**Bless the name of our God!**

\*Hymn "As Comes the Breath of Spring" VU #373

### Prayer of Approach

**Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh upon us. Renew us by your continued creative acts in the world. Your presence among us is a blessing and a gift. Open us to receive, ponder and grow as you communicate with your people.**

**In Voice, Body, and Spirit, we worship you and invite your transformative power to be alive among us and at work in us. Here we are, O Triune God, here we are.**

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 29

VU #756

**Hymn** "Spin Me a Story"

All God's Child Sing #117 vv. 1, 2

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

**Hymn** "Spin Me a Story"

All God's Child Sing #117 vv. 3, 4

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

The Triune God gives with abundance for the flourishing of community. We do not receive gifts, blessings, favour and resources for ourselves alone. We are created to be communal, compassionate and generous. Let us bring our gifts forward with gladness and gratitude that we have the honour of participating in God's liberating and redemptive activity in the world.

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

**\* Offertory** "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

VU #540

### **\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Generous God, may we give gifts that are sufficient and abundant as you have provided creation with all that we need to flourish. May the fear of scarcity give way to the joy of sharing. Magnify the resources we bring as well cultivate generosity within us so that all needs are met, and all your people may be well and whole in your name. Amen.**

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Scripture

#### Isaiah 6:1–8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

## John 3:1–17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of Truth,

because we are imperfect, so too are the societies, communities and relationships we build.

Selfishness and arrogance in our relationships do not reflect your love, and have too often hurt your creation, and your beloved people therein.

We know that wounds inflicted because of false beliefs about the superiority of people of a particular race, class or gender do not reflect your love for all people, nor your commandment to love you, and to love our neighbours.

We acknowledge that even if we did not directly inflict these wounds, we have inherited wounded relationships, and that diminishing, ignoring, or denying this continues our complicity in a cycle of harm.

We pray for those who are hurt and hurting because of false beliefs about the superiority of a particular race, class, or gender. God, let equity and justice bring healing.

We hold in our hearts:

... those who are sick, or have loved ones that are struggling with physical or mental illness. Let them know they are not alone.

Jesus, bring your comfort, justice, and peace.

...people who face violence in their relationships, in their home, office, community or country, and for those who have been displaced by war, unjust economic systems, the climate crisis, and ongoing impacts of colonization around the world.

Spirit, bring your comfort, justice, and peace.

...people who living with housing insecurity: where home is inadequate for the needs of the people it must shelter, is unsafe, unaffordable, or inaccessible. Creator, bring your comfort, justice, and peace.

...people who are struggling with economic insecurity: where there are barriers to education or employment, unfairness in policies or practices, where there is transition, and change. Redeemer, bring your comfort, justice, and peace.

...people at the frontlines, that daily face the evidence of systemic racism and continue to strive for the safety and dignity of people and creation. Holy Fire, bring your comfort, justice, and peace.



God of Transforming Love,  
the wounds of racism continue to this day, imbedded in the fabric  
of our institutions and governments. Let your compassion and  
wisdom flow through all public policies and practices.  
Where power is hoarded, bring your justice.  
Where racism is resisted, bring your courage and strength to  
acknowledge and address it.  
We pray for decision makers and change makers and give thanks  
for all people who lift up the integrity and dignity of creation and  
protect human rights. Amen.

**\*Hymn** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

VU #382

### **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 having heard the call of the Holy One.  
Go forth loved by the Creator, Redeemer and Companion.  
Go forth strengthened by the Sender, the Sent, and the Spirit.  
Receive the gift of new birth and eternal life.  
Testify to these things.  
Enter the kin-dom of God.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.