

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

November 24, 2024

10:30 a.m.

27th After Pentecost

Reign of Christ 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 "Cradle Me in Your Arms" MV #91

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 132)

Rise up, O God, dwell in the praise of your people. Make your home in our worship.

Let your people be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.

Rise up, O God, remind us of your covenant and your commands. May your presence be a balm and your direction our guide.

Let your people be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.

Rise up, O God, reign with power, wisdom and love. May your kingdom come full and complete.

Let your people be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.

*Hymn "Christ, Within Us Hidden" MV #162

Prayer of Approach

Sovereign God, the wind blows, the water flows and the sun shines. All creation declares your majesty. In you, we move, live and have our being. Be exalted in our worship. Be known by our lives lived. We proclaim your goodness from the east and the west, from the north and the south. On countryside's and city blocks, you reign. In deep valleys and skyscrapers, we declare that your realm extends from everlasting to everlasting. We worship you, Holy One, in spirit and in truth.

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 132:1–12, (13–18)

(VU 854 Parts One and Two)

***Hymn** "God is Like"

All God's Children Sing #78 vv. 1-3

All God's Children

Hymn "God is Like"

All God's Children Sing #78 vv. 4-6

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Having received the bounty of creation, share a measure of the gifts God has given to fulfill unmet needs, to declare God's goodness in tangible ways, and to testify to the kin-dom in our midst.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "We Will Take What You Offer"

MV# 196

***Offertory Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you rule in this world through your love. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you. Bless and multiply them through the power of the Spirit, so that they will spread your love in ways we have yet to imagine. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer of Understanding

Let us pray. O God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways. By your Word and Spirit, open our minds and hearts to your truth. By that truth, may our thoughts and ways become a greater reflection of yours. Amen.

Sacred Scripture

2 Samuel 23:1–7

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

John 18:33–37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?’ Pilate replied, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy One, the Source, Story and Spirit of love,
We praise you for the signs of your reign among us:
For hope overcoming despair,
trust rising above hurt,
love prevailing over hatred,
and peace restoring harmony after discord.
Lord Jesus,
reign among us in love.

God of hope beyond fear,
we pray that you will comfort this broken world.
May the vision of your peaceable kin-dom take root
in your church, in our families and our community,
and in countries marked by violence and struggles for power.
Lord Jesus,
reign among us in love.

God who mends the world,
we pray for a world where differences are met with
understanding,
and everyone can find a place of dignity and respect.

Shape our hearts with the kindness of your Spirit
so that all our relationships honour each person as created in your
image, and our actions demonstrate your healing intent.

Lord Jesus,
reign among us in love.

God of life beyond death,
we pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one,
the loss of hope, or the loss of a dream.

Be present with each one living through a time of sadness or
discouragement.

Bring them comfort through your presence,
and show us how to be good companions on the journey to
renewed hope.

Lord Jesus,
reign among us in love.

As we honour the reign of Christ this Sunday,
we pray for the Church, his Body, living and working in the world.
Send your Holy Spirit to bring renewed life and commitment
to each congregation and parish.

Enliven ecumenical action on needs in every community.

Open minds and hearts that have experienced disagreement to
mutual understanding.

Refresh leaders and volunteers who have grown weary
with a vision of the future you will create for us, with us and
through us, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Child, our Saviour.
Amen.

***Hymn** “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

VU 271

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,
Hold fast to the reign of Christ
Proclaim the good news through word and deed
Make "your life" the example
Keep love as your hope and guide
Testify to the truth
And the Sovereign God will be with you
Now and forever. Amen.

***Choral Benediction**

“Oh A Song Must Rise”

MV #142

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.