

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

**September 15, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**17th After Pentecost**

**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** “Come All You People”

MV #2

### **\*Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, worship the One who listens to our prayers.

**We will worship the One who hears us.**

Come, people of God, worship the One who watches over us.

**We will worship the One who cares deeply for us all.**

Come, people of God, worship the One who offers life for all.

**We will offer thanks and praise to the One who gives us life.**

**\*Hymn** “We are One”

VU #402

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship.**

**We have come to be in community with our neighbour.**

**We have come onsite and online.**

**We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We**

**have come in grief and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to honour your presence and to give you praise.**

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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 19 VU #740–741

**Hymn** “Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands” VU #570 v. 1

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn** “Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands” VU #570 v. 2

## **Offertory Invitation**

The Holy One creates, sustains, and renews with abundant generosity. Let us demonstrate our participation in the kingdom, our trust in God, and our stewardship of our resources through our giving to support our collective ministry.

**Offertory** “What Can I Do?” MV #191

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Generous God, may these gifts honour your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world.**

## **Listening for God's Word**

## **Prayer for Understanding**

God of Wisdom, the Psalmist tells us your law is perfect, making the simple wise. Send your Holy Spirit to focus our attention on your Word, so we may grow wiser as we learn to follow Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

## **Sacred Word**

**Proverbs 1:20–33** Wisdom cries in the streets.

Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.  
At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
‘How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?  
Give heed to my reproof;  
I will pour out my thoughts to you;  
I will make my words known to you.  
Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,  
and because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,  
I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when panic strikes you,  
when panic strikes you like a storm,  
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
when distress and anguish come upon you.  
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.  
Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,  
would have none of my counsel,  
and despised all my reproof,  
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way  
and be sated with their own devices.  
For waywardness kills the simple,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;  
but those who listen to me will be secure  
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.'

**Mark 8:27–38** Who do people say that I am?

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his God with the holy angels.'

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

## **Responding to God's Word**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of inspiration and imagination,  
you are the artist of our lives.

You have filled your world with gifts,  
expressed through the creativity and dedication of so many.  
We give you thanks for a new season of opportunity  
to gather in worship and witness,  
learning from you and from each other.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

Today we give you thanks for the artists among us,  
offering their inspiring gifts.

Thank you for painters and poets,  
for lines on a canvas and lines on a page,  
which inspire us and leave us wondering.

Thank you for sculptors and storytellers  
who fashion faces in stone and scenes in words  
to outline the profile of your truth for us.

And thank you for the art on our fridge doors.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of grace and goodness,  
we know your creativity in the arts of fabric and foodstuff,  
in hands that work with wood and keep machinery humming.  
We give you thanks for those who stitch patterns with thread,  
and those who set patterns on our plates, mixing colours and  
flavours.

Thank you for those who build and repair, refinish and restore  
the things we need and the things we cherish.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of music and movement,  
we know your beauty in the gifts of keyboard and composer,  
in the blending of voices and the bending of dancers.  
We thank you for these sounds and sights  
that can touch our hearts once more,  
and open our souls to praise you.

We pray for artists of every kind,  
that their work will find appreciation and support  
throughout our community.

Artist of our lives,  
**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of hope and healing,  
we thank you, too, for the healing arts,  
for the care and relief offered by professionals in our health care  
system and for support given by friends and volunteers.  
We pray for all who seek healing – for body, mind or spirit.

Give each one your presence and peace  
through our prayer and friendship.  
Awaken us to all to our creative potential  
to serve you in serving each other. Amen.

**\*Hymn** “Will You Come and Follow Me”

VU #567

### **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 forth 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**

“Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.”  
Go with these words on your hearts,  
and may the God of wisdom guide you;  
the Christ of mercy walk beside you;  
and the Spirit of hope inspire you each day,  
now and always. Amen.

**Choral Benediction** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU # 424 v. 1

**Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.