

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

September 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

18th 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**

From sunrise to sunset,
let us praise God’s holy name.

With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young,
let us praise God’s holy name.

In our work, in our homes, and in all we do,
let us praise God’s holy name.

Let us praise the Lord with all our hearts!
We will worship God now and always.

***Hymn** “Oh, a Song Must Rise”

MV #142

Prayer of Approach

Good God, make yourself known among us. We lift our voices in song, our hearts in prayer, our minds in consideration, our lives in adoration toward you. We acknowledge that your Spirit leads, comforts, and challenges us as we follow you.

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 1 VU #724

Hymn "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV #30 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV #30 vv. 3, 4

Invitation to Generosity

Like the words of Psalm 54:6, we proclaim: "With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, Holy One, for it is good." Let us give with the generosity of love made real, available, and free.

Offertory "What Can I Do?" MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive from you and pray you receive our gifts for your kingdom. May they be a blessing and gift in our extended community and the world. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Let us pray. Shine the light of your Word on the path ahead, O God. Help us choose the way of your wisdom, so we may bear fruit that is pleasing to you and shines your light into the world around us. Amen.

Sacred Word

Proverbs 31:10–31 A tribute to a capable woman.

Ode to a Capable Wife

A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
'Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.'
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Mark 9:30–37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all people and places, we come to you in prayer,
giving thanks that you are with us in all situations.

You bring us strength and courage when we are anxious or afraid.
You provide wisdom and direction when we face choices and challenges.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us.

In our prayers, enlarge our love and sharpen our vision
so that we may serve the world you love more faithfully.

We pray for those who dwell on the margins of the economy,
facing the challenges of unemployment, financial insecurity and rising costs.

Give leaders in government, business and labour a mutual vision
that reflects the values of your kingdom,
so that everyone has enough resources and respect to live well
and wisely.

We pray for all those facing famine and drought this year,
and for those who have lost everything through fire, storm or conflict.

Bring support to those people and agencies who work to alleviate suffering and help them rebuild lives and communities.

We give you thanks for those who work for peace and mercy
in a world divided by bitter conflicts,
and for those who keep peace and lead negotiations in international disputes.

Give them wisdom and perseverance.

We remember those who face violence, persecution, or discrimination daily.

Send your Spirit to protect the vulnerable and shame the vicious
so that justice and wellbeing will prevail.

We pray for teachers, students,
educational administrators and support staff
as another school year begins.
Thank you for the gifts of education,
for deepening insight into this ever-changing world
and the ability to distinguish truth from error.
Grant all those in education this year mutual respect
and commitment to the shared venture of learning.
Help each of us bring the benefits of our education to our life of
faith and give us all a teachable spirit.

We pray for all those struggling with pain or illness,
disability or daunting diagnosis.
Stay by their side.
Be with those who face death this day,
and those who weep for loved ones who have died.
Unite us in love, whatever we are facing,
and grant us the peace and hope you have promised us in Christ
Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn** "Walk With Me"

VU #649

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**

May you go into the world renewed and refreshed
With humble and expectant peace
To witness to the love of God
The joy of the community of faith
And the hope of new life in Christ. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.