

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

September 8, 2024

10:30 a.m.

16th 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**

Those who trust in God are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

We stretch out our hands and our hearts reach for your goodness and righteousness.

Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

Lead us on good paths and make us agents of peace.

Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

Encircle us in this time of worship -- surrounding us with your love.

***Hymn** “Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love

VU #593

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, our Maker, we gather to worship you, to renew our spirits, and to connect as a community. Some of us crave a joyful noise, some flourish in quiet contemplation, others desire movement, while others need to ponder our thoughts. However, we worship, we gather. In this place, we find you in the midst of us. In this connectivity, we know that your covenant remains in effect. May your Spirit guide, empower, and speak.

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 125

VU #849

Hymn "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229, vv. 1-4

All God's Children

Hymn "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229, vv. 5, 6

Offertory Invitation

James 2:8 states, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well." Let us do well in sharing and giving of our resources, gifts

and time within and beyond this faith community and beyond for the glory and love of God.

Offertory “What Can I Do?”

MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Sovereign God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kin-dom. May they be magnify the spirit of generosity among your people, amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted. May we hear what you are saying to the Church today, and find the courage to follow your will. Amen.

Sacred Word

Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23 A good name rather than riches.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.
Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Mark 7:24–37 The Syrophenician woman's faith challenges Jesus.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him

aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God in whom we live and move and have our being:
We come to you in prayer as the summer season draws to its close:
We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed
- to catch up with family and friends;
- to travel for recreation and restoration and let our worries go.
We are grateful for each moment to savour the beauty of creation.
Refresh us for the season ahead we pray,
and renew our commitment to serve you.

O God, Jesus faced many demands wherever he went,

and pressure from critics, whatever he did.

We pray for all those

who have not found rest this summer:

-for those whose work is stressful, exhausting or unappreciated;

-and for those whose livelihoods remain uncertain because of circumstances beyond their control.

We pray for those with hard choices to make, about work or school or what comes next, about relationships and priorities, or about social policy and community leadership.

Silence for 20 seconds.

May each one know your strength and guidance day by day. Today we remember those for whom this summer has been touched by suffering:

- We pray for those who have lost loved ones, and those

- facing an uncertain future or a difficult diagnosis.

We pray for those who have

- lost their homes, for whatever reason,

-and for those who despair about the climate crisis and what can be done to repair the suffering earth.

Silence for 20 seconds

We pray for all those who

- join efforts to relieve suffering of any kind.
May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your
company.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own
way.

As we prepare to leave this service, walk with us,
and show us how to live each day as those who follow Jesus.
Amen.

***Hymn** “When a Poor One”

VU #702

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**

Go into the world as agents of healing
Appreciating the wonder of creation
In all forms, expressions, and ways
Boldly embracing the fullness of humanity
Welcoming the stranger
And considering the other as friend.
Go in peace.

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

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.