

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

**February 2, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**4th After Epiphany**

**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** "Born in Human Likeness"

MV #47 x3

### Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 71)

O God our protector, we take refuge and find strength. Our praise is continually of you.

**Deliver us in your righteousness, hear our cries for justice and peace. Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable and a strong fortress to save creation.**

We receive courage from you, O God, and our praise continues.

**Rescue us from the wicked, and be our hope and trust, for you are our rock and fortress.**

Let us come into God's loving presence realizing the Rock upon which we stand. May all be wrapped in care and love, as we worship together.

**\*Hymn** "Will You Come and See the Light"

VU #96

## **Prayer of Approach**

**As we gather, we open our hearts and minds to something beyond ourselves. May we draw inspiration from the opportunities and challenges we share as human beings and find the strength to contribute to a brighter future for everyone. Let this time together spark meaningful conversations, fresh ideas, and a profound sense of connection and community.**

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 71:1–6

VU# 789 Part One

**\*Hymn** “Deep in Our Hearts”

MV #154 vv. 1, 2

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn** "Deep in Our Hearts"

MV #154 vv. 3, 4

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Living generously is our way of responding to the goodness around us and the needs we see in the world. Together, there's no challenge we can't face, thanks to the abundance creation provides. Let's celebrate that abundance by giving freely and with open hearts—an act of faith, trust, and love for both God and one another.

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

**\* Offertory** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

VU #55, v.4

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Giver of all good things, may our gifts reflect your generosity. Use our time, talents, and resources to serve our community and the world. Let each offering grow and fill the world with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

## **Prayer for Understanding**

God of wisdom, we long to hear your holy Word in new and fresh ways.

Open our ears to hear your call.

Open our minds to understand your truth.

Open our eyes to the work of your kingdom and equip us to take our part. Amen.

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Jeremiah 1:4–10**

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ But the LORD said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD.’

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.'

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Luke 4:21–30**

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

### **Anthem**

## Sermon

## Reflective Music

### Responding to the Word

#### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, your love is patient.

We give you thanks for all those who have been patient with us,  
teaching us and caring for us in so many ways.

We pray for the patience to love others as you have loved us.

God of love,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is kind.

Thank you for every unexpected gesture of kindness we have  
received.

Give us the courage to be kind to others,  
serving those who seem unkind, rude, or difficult to love in these  
difficult days.

Remind us that each one we meet is your child,  
our sibling made in your image.

God of love,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is not arrogant, nor does it seek its own  
interests.

Thank you for all who work to serve those who cannot fend for themselves.

Strengthen those who have lost hope and confidence in their own value.

Give us insight to speak the truth in love and to work for change that creates opportunities for those on the margins and respect for any who face discrimination.

God of love,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is not quick-tempered.

Thank you for every occasion when someone spared us from their anger.

We pray for those who are filled with anger and for all around them who face or fear violence.

Raise up advocates for children and elders who are abused, and rescue those who are trapped in relationships that injure and harm.

God of love,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, your love bears all things; it never fails.

We thank you for those we have loved in this life and who now dwell in the peace and joy of your presence.

Let your comfort settle on those who are bereaved or lonely this day.

We remember before you those with heavy burdens, many cares, much stress,



and those who find too little comfort and help.  
Open our eyes to those in need around us  
and show us how to offer support and companionship,  
for the sake of Christ, our friend and Saviour. Amen.

**\*Hymn** Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God VU #356

### **Changing 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.

### **\*Benediction**

Beloved,  
stand in wonder: God goes with you.  
Stand in awe: the Holy One is your Rock, Safety, and Trust.  
Stand in truth: you reflect the image of God.

And go forth:  
loving your neighbour,  
hoping for the world,  
and trusting that God is at work in you, through you,  
and with you. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** "I Am the Light of the World" VU #87 v.1

### **Postlude**

**\*Please stand as you are able.**