

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

July 13, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday 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 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 Presentation

***Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

Come, weary of headlines, aching with grief,
hearts heavy from the weight of the world.

**We come to this table, not to escape,
but to remember what is most real.**

Though the sword still gleams and the sirens still wail,
the prophets speak of another way.

**They call us to the mountain of the Lord,
where swords become ploughshares
and children learn peace instead of fear.**

Here, bread is broken not in violence,
but in love.

Here, the cup overflows not with vengeance,
but with grace.

**We gather not as strangers or spectators,
but as Sowers of hope,
kneeling beside the wounded earth.**

So come —
not because you are certain,
but because you long.
Not because you are worthy,
but because you are welcome.

**Come, for the soil still waits.
Come, for Christ still calls.
Come, and let us worship God.**

***Hymn “We Gather Here”**

VU #469

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One,
in a world trembling with violence and fear,
we turn to you —
not for escape, but for courage.
Draw near to us as we draw near to your table.
Open our hearts to your truth,
our hands to your peace,
and our lives to your holy work.
Plant in us the seeds of justice and mercy,
that we might become vessels of your hope.**

With Jesus, we sing this ancient prayer...

Lord's Prayer (Sung)

VU #960

Responsive Reading Psalm85

VU #802

***Hymn "All Who Hunger"**

VU #460

All God's Children

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

**We confess that too often we are weary —
too tired to hope,
too afraid to act,
too silent in the face of injustice.**

**We confess the ways we carry fear like armour,
and hold grudges like weapons,
forgetting that your call is to tenderness,
to mercy,
to love that breaks the cycle of violence.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.
Plant in us the seeds of justice and mercy,
that we might become vessels of your hope.**

**As we come to this table,
may your Spirit transform us —
turning weariness into strength,
fear into courage,
and silence into songs of justice.**

**Renew us here, at the heart of new life,
that we may rise with the courage to love boldly,
to sow peace where there is conflict,
and to live as your agents of healing in the world. Amen.**

Silence

Friends, hear this good news that:

**In Christ, we are embraced—
freed to live in hope,
called to walk in peace,
and sent to love without fear.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

In a world too often shaped by fear and scarcity, we choose generosity. As we give, we join in God’s work of healing — turning swords into ploughshares, and despair into hope. Let us offer our gifts with courage and love.

***Presentation of Offering And Communion Elements**

*Offering, Juice & loaf of Bread is taken forward
and placed on the Communion Table.*

*** Offertory**

“You Nourish Us”

VU #545

***Offertory Prayer**

**Gracious God,
take these gifts — simple and small —
and plant them like seeds in the soil of your peace.
Use them
to mend what is broken,
to feed what is hungry,
and to build what is just.
In your name, and for your dream of a better world, we
pray. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of stillness and storm,
in a world loud with conflict and noise,
let your Word come to us like rain on dry ground.
Open our hearts to the voice of the prophets —
to the dream of ploughshares and peace,
to the promise of justice rooted deep in the soil.
By your Spirit, help us not only to hear,
but to be transformed by your Word.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 2:1–4

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:1–4

1 In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

2 and many nations shall come and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He shall judge between many peoples
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;

4 but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own
fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Anthem

Prayer (Only for my eyes!)

May the words spoken now
meet us where we truly live —
beneath the noise,
beneath the surface.

And may our listening
be spacious enough
for God to speak
and us to hear.

Sermon *When Swords Shatter, the Soil Still Waits*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Let Us Break Bread Together”

VU #480

The Invitation

Come to this table,
you who are weary of war and worry,
you who carry wounds the world does not see,
you who hunger not just for bread,
but for a place to belong.

This is the table where weapons melt,
where fear finds rest,
where the broken are named beloved,
and the ordinary becomes holy.

Christ does not call the worthy —
only the willing.
And all are welcome.

The Great Thanksgiving

May the Holy One be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Breath of Life.
It is right to offer gratitude and praise.

Blessed are you, Source of all being,
who spun stars from silence
and shaped the earth from dreaming.
Through field and forest, river and rock,
you whispered your presence.

When your people wandered far from peace,
you called prophets —
wild-eyed ones who saw beyond the sword,
who dared to speak of ploughshares,
of fig trees and freedom,
of a time when all might sit unafraid
beneath the shade of justice.

And when the world was weary with waiting,
you came —
not in the roar of power,
but in the cry of a child.
Jesus of Nazareth,
your Word made flesh,
walked among us with healing in his hands
and welcome in his eyes.

He fed the hungry,
lifted the lowly,
and taught us the rhythm of grace.
And so we **sing** together...

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Power of life and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name,
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution

On the night before he gave himself
to the powers of violence and fear,
he took bread —
blessed it, broke it,
and gave it to his friends, saying:

“Take, eat.
This is my body,
broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup —
poured out and full of promise —
and said:

“This cup is the new covenant,
sealed in my love.
Whenever you drink it,
remember me.”

So we remember.
And in our remembering,
we dare to believe

that swords can still become ploughshares,
and love can still rise from ruins.

Memorial Acclamation (Sung)

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Pour out your Spirit, O God —
not just upon bread and cup,
but upon us:
your scattered people
gathered now in courage.

Let this meal be more than memory.
Let it be nourishment
for the long road to peace.

May it awaken in us
a hunger for justice,
a thirst for tenderness,
and a holy restlessness
to mend what must be mended.

**In Christ, with Christ, through Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we give you praise and thanksgiving,**

**now and always.
Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread and Sharing of the Cup

This is the bread of life —
not easy, not soft,
but enough for the journey.

Bread is Broken

This is the cup of blessing —
bitter and sweet,
poured out for love.

Juice is poured

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Come for all is ready.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

**O Holy Mystery,
in this meal,
you have stirred our souls awake again.
You have met us in the breaking,
fed us with mercy,
and reminded us that peace is possible.**

**Send us out now —
to be the ones who sow in ruined fields,
who speak gently in a violent world,
who remember the feel of plough-handles
even as we tend the wounded places.
For the soil still waits,
and your dream still calls.
Amen.**

***Hymn “O God of Every Nation”**

VU #677

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.

***Blessing**

May your heart stay tender, even in a hardened world.
May your hands remember the shape of plough-handles,
even as you mend what war has broken.
May your voice speak peace,
your life sow justice,
and your spirit remain rooted in holy defiance.

Go now in hope—
not because the world is easy,

but because God still dreams,
and the soil still waits. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Sent Forth By God's Blessing” VU #481 v.2

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.