

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

July 20, 2025

10:30 a.m.

6th 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"

VU #2

Call to Worship

The Earth calls us.

In the wind that moves through the trees,

In the rivers that carry stories from ancient times,

In the fire that cleanses and renews.

**We gather as one with the Earth,
as one with the ancestors who walked before us,
as one with the creatures who share this sacred land.**

Let us listen to the heartbeat of creation,

for we are all connected —

we are the land, the sky, the fire, and the water.

**We come with open hearts,
ready to walk gently upon this Earth,
to listen, to learn, and to honour.**

***Hymn** "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

VU #766

Prayer of Approach

**Creator,
you who made us from the same soil that holds the roots of the
trees,
we come before you, humbly and with gratitude.
We stand in awe of the lands we walk upon —
the mountains, the rivers, the forests,
all that is sacred, all that is living.
We come with open hearts to feel the pulse of the Earth,
to listen to its wisdom and healing.
We are here, standing in the circle of life,
with the knowing that all creation is intertwined.
Guide our steps,
that we may walk in harmony with you,
with the land, and with each other.**

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Lord's Prayer (Sung)

VU #960

Responsive Reading Psalm 46

VU #770-771

***Hymn** "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"

MV #171 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"

MV #171 vv. 1, 2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The Earth has given us much —
the trees, the winds, the waters, the animals.
In this sacred relationship, we are called to give back.
Let us offer what we can —
our time, our energy, our love — for the well-being of all.
We give not as owners, but as caretaker.
We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

***Presentation of Offering**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

**Spirit of the Earth,
we offer these gifts to you —
not from a place of abundance,
but from a place of deep respect for all that you provide.
We honour the gifts of the land —
the plants, the waters, the fire.
Bless these offerings,
and may they nourish the Earth,
as we too are nourished by its bounty.
May our gifts be a reflection of our commitment to walk gently,
and to restore balance where it is broken.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Great Spirit,
you who breathe life into all things,
open our hearts and minds to the wisdom in your Word.
May we hear your voice in these sacred texts,
and feel your presence in every verse.
Guide us to understand our place in your circle,
that our lives may reflect your peace and harmony.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-3

1 But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Romans 8:18-25

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;

20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Anthem

Sermon *Where the Forest Once Stood: Hope in a Burning World*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We give thanks for the Earth,
for the mountains that rise in quiet strength,

for the waters that cleanse and renew,
for the trees that shelter us,
for the animals who walk with us in sacred companionship.

**We give thanks to the land,
to the Creator who formed it,
and to the ancestors who honoured it.**

We pray for the Earth,
that it may heal from the wounds we have inflicted.
For the forests, the rivers, the oceans —
may they be restored to balance and peace.
We pray for the people who suffer,
especially those most affected by the changing climate —
may they find strength in the Earth's healing energy,
and the wisdom of the land.

**We give thanks to the land,
to the Creator who formed it,
and to the ancestors who honoured it.**

We pray for the wisdom of our Indigenous brothers and sisters,
for their teachings, their fire-keeping,
their stewardship that has always honoured the Earth.
May we learn from them,
and walk alongside them in harmony.

Silence for personal prayers...

**We pray for the renewal of the land,
for peace among all beings,**

**and for the courage to act as responsible stewards,
following the sacred path of the Creator. Amen.**

***Hymn** “I See A New Heaven”

VU #713

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**

As you leave this space,
carry with you the wisdom of the Earth.
May you walk softly upon the land,
with reverence in your heart,
and the presence of the ancestors in your spirit.
May the winds carry your prayers,
and may the fire warm you with healing.
may the waters cleanse and restore you,
and the Earth always hold you in its embrace.
We go in peace,
with the knowledge that we are part of the sacred circle,
connected to all that is, and all that will be.
Amen. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “You Shall Go Out With Joy”

VU #884

Postlude

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