

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge**

**United Church of Canada**

**July 6, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Graduation Sunday**

**Forth 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

We gather today at a bend in the road,  
a place of looking back and looking forward,  
a moment of endings and beginnings.

**We come ready to listen—  
to stories, to dreams, to the whisper of the sea.**

The journey of becoming is slow and steady,  
shaped by tides of time and moments of grace.

**We come to celebrate those who are becoming,  
and to remember who we are in this unfolding story.**

**\*Hymn** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

VU #644

### Prayer of Approach

**God of the shoreline,  
you meet us in the rhythm of tides and time,**

**help us to slow down and notice the glimmering light,  
to breathe deeply and trust the journey.**

**Be with our graduates as they step forward,  
not with certainty, but with courage and hope.**

**Amen.**

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

**Lord's Prayer** (Sung)

VU #960

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 139

VU #861

**\*Hymn** "I Am a Child of God"

MV #157 vv. 1, 2

**All God's Children**

**Hymn** "I Am a Child of God"

MV #157 vv. 4, 5

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Invitation to Generosity**

As we become who we are meant to be,  
we shape our community together.

Your gift today helps build  
a place of hope, kindness, and belonging.

Will you join us in this work  
with your generosity?

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory**      “You Nourish Us”

VU #545

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Gracious God,  
we offer these gifts as signs of our trust  
in the unfolding story you are writing in and through us.**

**May they nurture growth,  
deepen kindness,  
and create space for all  
to become who they are meant to be.**

**Bless what we give  
and who we are,  
now and always.**

**Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

God of wisdom and grace,  
open our hearts and minds today.  
Help us to listen deeply — not just to words,  
but to the quiet stirring of your Spirit within.  
As the Scriptures are read,  
may we hear your voice speaking to us —  
in challenge, in comfort, and in invitation. Amen.

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Jeremiah 29:11–14a**

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope.

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me,  
I will hear you.

When you search for me, you will find me;  
if you seek me with all your heart,  
I will let you find me, says the Lord,  
and I will restore your fortunes...

### **Philippians 1:3–6, 9–11**

I thank my God every time I remember you —  
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of  
you,  
because of your sharing in the gospel  
from the first day until now.

I am confident of this:  
that the One who began a good work among you  
will bring it to completion  
by the day of Jesus Christ.

And this is my prayer —  
that your love may overflow more and more  
with knowledge and full insight,

to help you to determine what is best,  
so that on the day of Christ  
you may be pure and blameless,  
having produced the harvest of righteousness  
that comes through Jesus Christ,  
for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

## **Prayer**

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** “Becoming Who You Are”

## **Reflective Music**

## **Responding to the Word**

**A Community Sending for Graduates:** Seeds of hope and possibility  
Each graduate is named, and brief intro to what they are graduating from  
and what their future hopes are.

“You are not finished—you are planted.  
And something good is already growing in you.  
These seeds are a reminder: growth begins unseen,  
but with time and care, beauty will continue to rise.”

### **A Communal Affirmation**

**Congregation to stands**

**“We see you.  
We bless you.  
We trust the good work unfolding in you.  
You are not alone.  
We are your shoreline —  
and we will cheer you on  
from every harbour you pass.”**

**\*Hymn**     “She Comes Sailing on the Wind”     VU #380

### **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 go from this place,  
may you walk with courage into the unknown,  
trusting that you are not alone.

May you become more fully who you are,  
day by day—gently, honestly, and with joy.

May love guide your steps,  
may hope steady your heart,  
and may grace surprise you—  
again and again,  
just around the bend.

Amen.

\*Choral Benediction “Peace Be With You”

MV #215

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.