

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

June 8, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Day of Pentecost

United Church, 1925–2025 Centennial

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** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

We gather to celebrate a church born in hope,
Rooted in unity, growing in grace.

For 100 years, the Spirit has stirred,
Calling us to justice, compassion, and bold faith.

We come with memory and gratitude,
And with vision for what is yet to be.

Let us worship the living God—
Who has been our dwelling place in every generation!

Hymn “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
(Methodist hymn in 1925 church union service)

VU #326

Prayer of Approach

**Loving and gracious God,
a century ago, your people dared to dream—
that denominations could unite in mission,
that faith could reach across boundaries,
and that your gospel could shape a new, common life.**

**Today we stand on their shoulders,
grateful for their courage,
humbled by their faith,
and inspired by their vision.**

**As we celebrate this 100-year journey,
bless us anew:
renew our purpose, ignite our compassion,
and guide us into your unfolding future.**

**In the name of Christ,
who is always among us,**

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

Lords Prayer

**Our father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
By 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.

Dramatic Litany of Remembrance and Celebration

(For 4 Voices + Visual Projection)

[Visual suggestion before the litany begins: Slide of the 1925 Union Service or early images of your congregation(s)]

Voice 1 (Narrator):

Today we pause to remember —
To honour the dream that took root in 1925.
Three great streams of faith flowed together:
Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist —
And along with them, many local union churches,
Already living into a shared future.

[Visual: Logos or photos of early Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Local Union churches — especially those local to your community.]

Voice 2 (Methodist):

We remember the Methodist Church,
alive with song, revival, and a deep concern for the poor.
Our faith was born on horseback,

carried across the prairies and coastlines by circuit riders who believed in grace, discipline, and social holiness.

All: We give thanks for their passion and their courage.

[Visual: Photo of local or regional Methodist church, or early circuit rider imagery.]

Voice 3 (Presbyterian):

We remember the Presbyterian Church,
built on strong roots of study, prayer, and mission.
In schools and pulpits, in justice halls and overseas work,
they held firm to the Gospel,
believing the mind and the heart belonged together in faith.

We give thanks for their wisdom and conviction.

[Visual: Photo of your local Presbyterian church or an image of early Canadian Presbyterian gatherings.]

Voice 4 (Congregationalist):

We remember the Congregational Church,
small but mighty —
shaped by a deep belief in the gathered community,
and in each person's freedom to follow Christ faithfully.
They gave space for the Spirit to move among equals.

We give thanks for their commitment to community and conscience.

[Visual: Old image of local Congregationalist churches or their creeds/meeting houses.]

Voice 1 (Narrator):

And we remember the Local Union Churches,

often rural or remote —
places where practical ecumenism had already begun.
These churches didn't wait for legislation —
they chose unity because it just made sense,
and because Christ's body was always bigger than
boundaries.

We give thanks for their witness to cooperation and shared faith.

[Visual: Local union church photo or blended congregational images — maybe even handwritten minutes from early joint meetings.]

Voice 2:

In 1925, they stood together.
Some with certainty, others with hesitation—
but all with hope.

Voice 3:

Hope that together, they could serve better.
Hope that the gospel would shine more brightly
through united witness.

Voice 4:

Hope that Christ would still be found—
in rural sanctuaries, in downtown missions,
in Sunday School basements and communion tables shared.

All Voices:

For the dream they dared to dream,
For the church they chose to become,
For the legacy they left to us—
We give thanks. We remember. We carry it forward.

(candle is lit or bell is rung)

[**Visual:** A collage of current church life — baptisms, meals, worship, outreach.]

Hymn “We are the Church”

AGCS #84 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn “We are the Church”

AGCS #84 vv. 3, 4

Prayer of Confession

In every long journey, there are missteps and wrong turns. Let us come before God, naming where we have fallen short.

**Holy One,
we confess that we have sometimes lost our way—
choosing comfort over courage,
tradition over transformation,
and safety over solidarity.**

**Forgive what has been hurtful.
renew what has grown weary.
and rekindle the fire of your spirit in us.**

Silent reflection...

Words of Assurance

**God’s grace is deeper than our regrets.
God’s mercy is wide enough for every generation.
Be at peace — we are a forgiven and forgiving people.
Thanks be to God!**

Presentation of our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Let us give, not only in memory of the past,
but in joyful commitment to the future of Christ's church.

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory** "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

VU #540

***Offertory Prayer**

**Blessing God,
you have gifted us with faith, friendship, and freedom.
Receive these gifts,
that they may nourish ministries of hope
for the next hundred years and beyond.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God,
as we listen to your Word,
help us hear with hearts wide open,
as if listening to the stillness of a forest or the murmur of a
stream.
Guide us with wisdom and clarity,
that we may walk in your truth with grace and understanding.
Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:18–21

18 Forget the events of earlier times;
do not dwell on the past.

19 Watch for the new thing I am going to do.
It is happening already—you can see it now!
I am making a road through the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild animals will honour me—
jackals and ostriches—
for putting water in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert
to give drink to my chosen people.

21 The people I formed for myself,
that they might proclaim my praise.

John 15:1–11

1 I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower.

2 The vine grower removes every branch from me that doesn't
bear fruit,
but prunes each fruitful branch to make it bear even more.

3 You're already pruned, thanks to the word that I have spoken to
you.

4 Live on in me, as I do in you.
Just as a branch can't bear fruit of itself apart from the vine,
neither can you bear fruit apart from me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches.
Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 Those who don't live in me are like withered, rejected branches,
to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned.

7 If you live on in me,
and my words live on in you,
ask for whatever you want,
and it will be done for you.

8 My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit
and thus prove to be my disciples.

9 As Abba God has loved me, so I have loved you.
Live on in my love.

10 And you will live on in my love
if you keep my commandments,
just as I live on in Abba God's love
and have kept God's commandments.

11 I tell you all this that my joy may be yours,
and your joy may be complete.

Anthem

Sermon "Still Becoming Church"

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Gracious God,
We thank you for the founding denominations—Methodist,
Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Union churches—
whose faith, though unknown to many, laid the groundwork for
the church we are today.

We give thanks for those who stepped out in faith.

We give thanks for the rural and urban churches, the First Nations ministries,
and the Francophone outreach,
all of which have been a testament to your love, reaching every corner of this land.

We give thanks for those who stepped out in faith.

We are grateful for the work of reconciliation,
for the courage to face our history,
and for the continued movement toward full inclusion,
where all are welcomed as children of God.

We give thanks for those who stepped out in faith.

We thank you for the people and partners—known and unknown—who shape our church today,
who offer their time, gifts, and vision to build your kingdom on earth.

We give thanks for those who stepped out in faith.

As we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us,
we ask for your guidance, that we may be faithful stewards of your love and grace.

We give thanks for those who stepped out in faith.

In Christ's name, we offer these prayers.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

For 100 years and more,
God has been our companion—
in courage and in failure,
in change and in continuity.

In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn “Called by Earth and Sky”

MV #135

Changing the Light

The light has changed.
It has taken on a new form,
but it is still here,
alive and bright.
It is absorbed into you,
clinging to your heart,
shining from within.

Now, go and cradle this light.
Share it with others.
Carry it through your days,
in every moment,
and every action.
Live in the light,
be the light,
and let it shine in all you do.

Commissioning & Blessing

We are people of a living story—
a church still growing, still seeking, still called.

**We go with the spirit of those before us
and the hope of those yet to come.**

May the God who led us here,
continue to surprise and sustain us.

**May Christ walk beside us,
and may the Spirit carry us into the next chapter—
with joy, with courage, and with love.
Amen!**

Choral Benediction tune 8686 (New Britain)

**A hundred years of grace and light,
We've walked together in faith's bright sight.
With every step, God's love we've known,
Now as we go, we are not alone.**

Chorus:

**Bless us, O Lord, as we depart,
Your peace and love within our heart.
Through all the years, may we remain,
A faithful people in Your name.**

Choral Benediction "Peace Be With You"

MV #215

Postlude