

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

May 25, 2025

10:30 a.m.

6th Sunday of Easter

Covenanting with Newly Elected Elders

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 spirit of love and peace.

**Welcome to this sacred space,
located on the unceded, traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq
people.**

Welcome to this place of rest, renewal, and reflection—
a sanctuary where worship and wonder meet.

It is good to be here.

It is a blessing 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

Come, God of wonder—
soften our hearts, and stir our imaginations.

**We long to see as you see,
to feel the world with holy attention.**

You move through us in quiet ways,
nudging us to mend what is torn.

**With your help, we will begin again—
to weave healing into our community.**

The signs are all around us—
not empty pictures, but sacred echoes of truth.

**Teach us to read them with care,
to listen beneath the noise of the world.**

You gave us imagination not as escape,
but as a doorway to deeper seeing.

**Help us look again—
and find, even here, the seeds of a new world.**

***Hymn “The Church's One Foundation”**

VU #332

Prayer of Approach

**Liberating God,
you meet us in the symbols and stories that stretch across time.
You awaken our imagination,
not for escape,
but for deep seeing—
for shaping what is broken into something whole.**

**In this sacred gathering,
we come to listen for your truth,
to rest in your presence,
and to be reshaped by your Spirit.**

**Today, we also give thanks for those called to serve as Elders—
faithful guides who will enter covenant with this congregation.
May their “yes” be wrapped in wisdom,
and may our shared promise be rooted in trust,
for the sake of your healing work among us.**

**As we begin this time together,
steady our hearts, open our hands,
and ready us to be changed.**

In the name of the One who walks always beside us.

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 67

VU #786

***Hymn** "Kum ba yah"

AGCS #76 vv. 1-4

All God's Children

Hymn "Kum ba yah"

AGCS #76 v. 5

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We honour the sacred text
that teaches us to bear witness—

not just with words,
but through the offerings of our lives.

Let us give freely—
time, resources, presence—
so that in our shared devotion,
a new world may rise among us.

Amen.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks” MV #187 v. 1

***Offertory Prayer**

**Still speaking God,
we are witnesses to the eternal presence of Jesus—
from ancient times to now,
faithfully encountering grace that renews,
that stirs, that breathes life into us.**

**Bless these offerings,
that through them, others may witness
the ways we live into your word,
so that our communities may be refreshed and restored
with the living power of your love.**

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O God,
your Word is light to your people,
shining from ages past to now.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may receive the light that guides us
and the truth that transforms us.
In the name of Christ, our Risen Lord,
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Acts 16:9–15

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

13 On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.
15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Luke 22:24-27

A dispute arose among the disciples as they argued about which of them should be seen as the greatest.

But Jesus said to them:

“The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over their people, and those in authority call themselves benefactors.

But it must not be that way with you. Instead, the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader must become like one who serves.

For who is greater—the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Surely, it is the one who sits at the table.

Yet I am among you as one who serves.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Giving thanks and appreciation for the retiring Elders

Covenanting with Newly Elected Elders

Scripture

Let us hear the message of scripture.
There are different ways of serving,
but the same God is served.
There are different abilities to perform service,
but the same God who gives ability to each of us.
The Spirit's present is shown in some way
in each person for the good of all.
Christ is like a single body which has many parts.
If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.
All of us are Christ body, and each one is a part of it.
I Corinthians 12

Statement of Purpose

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude
that you have been called by God,
and chosen by the people of central Queens United Church faith
community for leadership in the church.
This ministry is a blessing, an honour and a responsibility.
It recognizes your special gifts
and calls you to work among us, with us and on our behalf.

We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God,
and to all God's people.

Covenant Questions and Promises

Clerk of Session

The following persons have been elected by this Faith Community
and accepted the office of Elder. Please stand as I speak your
name:

As you come to the duties of your office,
let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

Elders Stand

As a disciple of Jesus the Christ,
will you continue to live out your faith
with praise and Thanksgiving?

Will you carry out your responsibilities as an Elder
in this congregation with integrity and joy?

I will, God being my helper.

congregation stands

Will you, the members of Central Queens United Church
honour the leadership of these people?

Will you assist them through daily prayer,
generous support and personal example,
so that, together, we may be a faithful Church of Jesus the Christ?

We will, God being our helper.

Prayer

**Loving God, you have called these people to serve you.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all
that we may keep the promises we have made today.
Help them to fulfill their responsibilities.
May their leadership help us all
to reflect your love and grace always.
Amen.**

Declaration

In the name of God: creator, Christ and spirit,
we recognize and affirm you
in your ministry as Elders of
Central Queens United Church.
Amen.

***Hymn** "Called by Earth and Sky"

MV #135

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**

Go now,
with your hearts set upon the way of love,
trusting in the Divine to guide your steps.
May your actions be a reflection of the compassion
that unites us all,
and may your journey be rooted in hope,
with trust that the path you walk is never alone.

Blessing

May the light of the Holy One guide your path,
and the wind of the Spirit fill your heart with peace.
May the earth beneath you steady your steps,
and may the blessings of the Divine surround you always.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be With You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.