

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

**April 26, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Forth Sunday of Easter**

**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** "Your Love is Amazing"

MV 26

### **Call to Worship**

There are many paths we walk in this life...  
some clear, some uncertain.

**Yet we do not walk alone.**

Through green pastures and shadowed valleys,

**God leads us still.**

We gather not because we have all the answers,

**but because we belong to one another.**

Come, let us worship the One who walks with us.

**Let us worship God.**

**\*Hymn** "I Feel the Winds of God Today"

VU #625

## **Prayer of Approach**

**Gentle Shepherd,  
you have guided us through many seasons,  
in clarity and in uncertainty.**

**You have led us through joy  
and through shadow,  
always with us.**

**Gather us again as your people,  
held together in your love.**

**Quiet our hearts,  
steady our steps,  
and remind us  
that we are never alone.**

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 23

VU #749

**Anthem** “It's a Song of Praise to the Maker” Ry, Layla, Jade & Olive

**All God's Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Invitation to Generosity**

The life of the church  
depends on all its people.

It is shaped by the shared gifts of many,  
through care, presence and generosity.

The early community devoted themselves  
to what mattered:  
to learning, fellowship,  
breaking bread, and prayer.

So we continue that life together.

Let us give,  
not from obligation,  
but as part of the life we share.

We give as we are able,  
we give as we are called.

**Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory** “Grant Us, God, the Grace”

VU #540

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Faithful God,  
we offer these gifts  
as signs of our shared life.**

**Bless them,  
and use them to bring care and hope.**

**Remind us that this work  
belongs to all of us,  
and is held in your grace. Amen.**

### **Listening for the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

God of wisdom,  
as we hear these words,  
open our hearts and minds.

Help us to listen deeply,  
and to trust what is unfolding within us. Amen.

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Ecclesiastes 3.1-15**

3 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter  
under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
<sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather  
stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

### **Revelation 21:1–5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a beloved adorned for their beloved.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying:

“See, the dwelling place of God is among all people.  
God will dwell with them;  
they will be God’s peoples,  
and God will be with them.

God will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

And the One seated on the throne said,  
“See, I am making all things new.”  
Also said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

## **Anthem**

**Sermon**    *The Edge Where We Are Held*

## **Reflective Music**

### **A Litany of Release at the Threshold**

We stand at a threshold,  
not an ending alone,  
but a quiet crossing.

**We feel the weight of what has been,  
and the pull of what is yet to come.**

For the days we have shared...  
stitched with laughter,  
woven through with sorrow,  
held together by grace...  
I give thanks.

**For your presence among us,  
steady and searching,  
we give thanks.**

If there have been words left unsaid,  
or wounds carried quietly,  
I ask your forgiveness.

**We offer you forgiveness,  
as we ask for yours...  
trusting that grace is larger than our failings.**

I release you now...  
not into absence,  
but into your own becoming.

**We release you...  
not from love,  
but into the widening of your life.**

I will carry the echo of this place...  
voices, faces, sacred moments...  
but I will not cling to what must now grow without me.

**We will remember you  
in the rhythm of what we have known,  
but we will not hold you back  
from the life that calls you onward.**

May you trust the ground beneath your feet,  
even as it shifts.

**May you trust the horizon before you,  
even when it is not yet clear.**

**So let it be.**

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God who walks with us,

we give thanks for the journey -  
for the paths we have known,  
and for those still unfolding.

We give thanks for this community -  
for the ways people have cared,  
shown up,  
and carried one another through.

In moments of joy,  
we have celebrated together.

In moments of sorrow,  
we have not been left alone.

And so we pray now  
for those who find themselves  
in uncertain places -

For those standing at thresholds,  
unsure of what comes next.

For those carrying weariness -  
of body, mind, or spirit.

For those walking through valleys  
where the light feels distant.

For those who grieve,  
and for those who long  
for healing and hope.

God, in your mercy,  
walk with them and us.

We pray for this congregation  
as it continues its journey -  
that it may remain rooted  
in care,  
in compassion,  
in shared life.

Give each courage  
when the path is unclear,  
and trust  
that they are not alone.

And we pray for ourselves,  
that wherever we go from here,  
we may remain attentive  
to your presence  
in the ordinary steps of life.

For all these things, spoken and unspoken,  
we trust in your quiet, guiding love.

Amen.

**\*Hymn** "Spirit God, Be Our Breath"

MV #150

### **Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

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**

Let us depart now, as a people who have been shaped by love, and are still being shaped.

Let there be courage in our choosing, and gentleness in our living.

Hold fast to what gives life, and release what no longer serves.

May the grace that has carried us this far lead us forward, not with total understanding, but with deep, deep abiding trust.

And may we always know that we are held... in mystery, in community, and in love.

### **\*Choral Benediction**

“May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun, shine warm upon your face.  
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God hold you, in the palm of his hand.”

**\*Choral Amen**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.