

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 14, 2025 – 10:30 am**

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

Central Queens' Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating 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

Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Reader 1

This morning, we light the third candle, the rose candle - the colour of dawn breaking through night, a pause in the heaviness, a gentle lifting of the heart.

Joy comes not as fulfilment, but as an interruption: a sudden glimpse of hope, a crack of light in a worn-out world.

May this flame remind us that joy does not wait for us to be ready. It comes quietly, in small mercies, guiding us onward.

Candle of Joy is Lit

Reader 2

Let this light lead us into the quiet promise of God's nearness.
Amen.

Bible Presentation (*Placed during the singing of the Introit*)

***Introit**

Joy Is a Star

VU #7 vs 3

***Call to Worship**

In this season of deep purple, we gather around a single rose-coloured light - a candle that interrupts the solemn waiting with a whisper of joy.

We come, weary and hopeful, ready for a breath of grace.

Not the joy that fixes everything, but the joy that finds us in the middle of things - in unfinished stories, in fragile days, in the places where light slips through.

We come with open hearts, trusting that even a small flicker can guide our steps.

Come, let us worship the One whose joy surprises, comforts, and awakens us.

***Hymn**

People, Look East

VU #9

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, you meet us in the middle of our stories, not at the ending where everything is resolved, but in the tender places where we wait and wonder.

Open our eyes to the small joys that interrupt our weariness: the warmth of a familiar voice, a memory that steadies us, the courage of Mary's song, the honest questions of John.

May your Spirit breathe through this gathering, loosening our burdens, lifting our hearts, and preparing a space within us for joy to take root. Amen.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...(on screen)

Responsive Reading – Luke 1:47-55 Song of Mary

VU #898

***Hymn** My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV #138 vs 1 & 2

Time for All Ages

Hymn My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV #138 vs 3 & 4

Children may retire to Sunday School

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Let us come before God with the openness Advent invites.

Holy Love, we confess that too often we wait for perfect moments before allowing joy into our lives. We cling to worry, forgetting that joy can arrive even in our uncertainty.

Interrupt us, O God, with your compassion. Let small mercies open our hearts.

When despair grows heavy, when our questions feel larger than our faith, remind us of John the Baptist - still able to seek you even from a prison cell.

Remind us of Mary, singing her brave song into an uncertain world.

May Your joy find us exactly as we are. **Amen.**

Assurance of God's Unending Love

Friends, hear this good news: God meets us in the middle of the story.

We are held.

We are forgiven.

We are renewed. And joy is already rising.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn** Halle, Halle, Halle VU #958

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
VU #149 vs 4

Offertory Prayer

O God, receive these gifts - simple, hopeful, offered in love. Bless them with your joy, that they may bring light to places still waiting for dawn. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Word

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSV) *The desert blooms and rejoices*

Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSV) *John's disciples visit Jesus*

Anthem "Where is the Room?" *Choir*

Responding to the Word

Prayer

Sermon *Joy as Interruption*

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** It Came upon the Midnight Clear VU #44

*Blessing

***Choral Benediction** O Come, O Come Emmanuel VU #1 vs 1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

Ministers	All of us
Clergy	Rev Greg Davis
Office Hours	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm
Office Phone	902-964-2291
Email	minister@cquc.ca
<u>Church Office</u>	
Office Hours	Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm
Phone	902-964-2221
Email	office@cquc.ca

A Warm Welcome to All – We are delighted you have joined us. May God’s word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Thank You to Ellen Davis for her beautiful gift of music this morning.
Congregation of Central Queens United Church

Sympathies are extended to Walter & Pat Carver and family on the death of Walter’s niece, Rachel Brookins.

Sympathies are also extended to Cathy & Darrell and Kenny & Brenda on the death of their mother, Joan Bernard.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 5:30 pm Communion Service

Life and Work of Our Church

Greg’s Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 am – 12 pm. If anyone is in the hospital or would like a visit from Greg, please call him at 902-964-2291. If you wish to meet with Greg outside the scheduled hours, please call 902-964-2291 or email minister@cquc.ca for an appointment.

Change of Office Hours for the week of December 22- 26th. I will only be in the office and doing the bulletin on Tuesday, December 23rd as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on Wednesday and Thursday this year. Please have any items for the bulletin in by **Wednesday, December 17th**. Thanks. *Trudy*

Scent-Free – “No scents make good sense”

Please refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and fragrant personal care products as they can trigger serious health issues for those with fragrance allergies. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, December 21st, are:

Isaiah 7:10-16 *the sign of Emmanuel.*

Responsive Reading – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (VU #794 Part 1)

Shine forth and save us.

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul states his authority and belief.*

Matthew 1:18-25 *Joseph’s dream.*

These are made available to you should you wish to read them during the upcoming week.

The **Search Committee** is looking for volunteers to help in the search for a new minister. If interested, please see Walter Carver.

A Heartwarming Christmas Concert tonight, December 14th, 7 pm. Hosted by Central Queens Musical Friends and featured performers joining this musical ensemble are Chris DeRoche, Wade Campbell, Braidan Campbell, Jodi Whitlock, Kirk Neville, Brad Trivers and Annika Trivers. Join us for an evening of seasonal music and song favourites. Light refreshments at intermission as well as a fudge sale. Admission is a free will offering.

Rosewood Service this Thursday, December 18th, at 6:15 pm. The Elders will be assisting Greg with the service.

Official Board Meeting – The next Official Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 7:15 p.m.

Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Deadline for reports is **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**. Please email reports to office@cquc.ca. Thank you.
We will be having sandwiches and sweets following the worship service; then we will have the Annual Meeting.

Sunday School Helpers are Needed to assist in our Sunday School ministry. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

Mitten Tree – The Mitten Tree is set up again this year at the front of the sanctuary and will be up until Christmas Eve. Let's cover the tree with lots of mittens, scarfs, and hats!! These items will then be distributed to local schools. Help us fill our Mitten Tree to overflowing!!

Sunday Worship Cancellations – In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made by radio on Ocean 100 by 9 am. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page.

E-transfers – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept e-transfers. If you prefer to give your offerings through e-transfer, please send via email to veldabertram@gmail.com.

FundScrip – Orders will resume in the new year on January 4th, 2026. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

Bulletin Deadline – Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday evening**. Bulletin items can be emailed to office@cquc.ca.

Office Church Directory – In an effort to keep contact information as up to date as possible, please give Trudy any changes to your contact information. If you would like to be added to our directory or need to update your info, please contact Trudy at office@cquc.ca or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off in the wooden box at the church entrance any Sunday or during church office hours.

Puzzles/Book Exchange – Be sure to check out the wide variety of books and puzzles available in the main hall. Help yourself to a puzzle and/or book or bring some of your own to share!! If you happen to find any missing pieces of puzzles at home, there is a container above the puzzle shelves for these 'lost pieces'.

Pop Can Pull Tabs – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collection pop can pull tab which are then given to the Daughters of the Nile women's organization. The funds go to the Shriners Hospital in Montreal where they are used to buy reading materials for children in the hospital. Your pop can tab collections can be dropped off here at the church. Thank you.

Community Events

Come Experience the Magic of the Holidays – Ling's Second Annual Christmas House Tour this afternoon, December 14th, from 2 – 8 pm at 1549 New Glasgow Rd – Rte 224, Wheatley River. Admission minimum: \$10 donation/person. All proceeds go the Central Queens Elementary School Christmas Families program. Seasonal refreshments will be available. Spread the joy, support local families, and come celebrate the season together!!

West River United Church is delighted to host Tip Er Back this evening, December 14th, at 7 pm. Admission is \$15 and tickets can be purchased either from the church office or at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

7th Annual West River United Online Cake & Goodies Auction till this Thursday, December 12th on the West River United Church Facebook Page. Bidding will end at 5 pm this Thursday, December 12th. Place your bids in the comments of the item you are interested in. Make sure to set your comments to **"All Comments"** so you can see all bids to avoid duplication of amounts. Choose one item or all the items. Check the page often so you are not outbid on your

favourite Christmas Goodies. Winners will be notified by Facebook Messenger. Pick up your item on Saturday, December 14th, from 11 am – 12 pm at West River United. Happy bidding!!!

Free Concert - Park Royal Choir presents "Light of Peace", a beautiful event of Celtic-inspired Christmas music, this evening, December 14th, at 7 pm at Park Royal United Church. Led by Park Royal's Music Director, Andrea Ellis, the concert will feature the Park Royal Choir and guest musicians Allison Ling Giggey (fiddle), Sam Lantz (flute), Machaela Osowski (bodhrán), and Sharon Cameron (piano). The program includes "Light of Peace" by Karen Marroli — a stunning blend of Irish and Scottish melodies, carols, and messages of hope and peace — plus other festive selections and a joyful sing-along. Stay after the concert for apple cider and conversation! This **FREE EVENT** is supported by The United Church of Canada Foundation and the Centennial Granting Fund.

Winsloe United Church Christmas Ceilidh on Sunday, December 21st, at 2 pm featuring Dino and the Harmonies with guest drummer Todd Gallant. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

“Christmas Nativi-Tea” on Sunday, December 21st, at 7 pm, at Central Trinity United Church, Breadalbane. Come and join them for an evening of Christmas music. There will be a display of Nativity Sets. A lunch will be served during intermission. \$10 at the door; under 12 - free.

