

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 21, 2025 – 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love**

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 Love

Reader 1

God is always gathering what has been scattered, mending what has been broken, restoring what has grown weary. Love is the work that brings us home.

We long for love that rebuilds and renews.

This candle calls us into that holy work – to be repairers of the breach, bearers of compassion, and companions on the road to healing.

Candle of Love is Lit

Reader 2

We light the candle of Love, trusting that God's restoring love can make all things new.

May love shape our lives and our world.

Prayer

Holy Presence, root us in your restoring love. Make us signs of healing, carriers of compassion, and people of courage. Amen.

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

***Introit** Love Is a Star VU #7 vs 4

***Call to Worship**

Come, come with what you have...
Even the pieces that don't seem to fit.

Come, come with the questions that wake you at night...
Even the ones we're afraid to ask.

Come, come with your plans, and the ways they've gone astray...
We come, ready to notice God at work anyway.

Come, come into this place, into this moment...
God is already here, shaping life among the fragments.

***Hymn** Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness VU #28

Prayer of Approach

O God of early arrivals, of dawn that breaks without warning and paths that twist unexpectedly, we come to you without instructions, without diagrams or maps, only the courage of curiosity. Meet us in our unfinished plans, in our boxes of scattered pieces. Show us how to begin assembling, how to trust that you are already here, patient, gentle, insistent.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 80:17, 17-19 *Part 1* VU #794

***Hymn** The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy VU #73 vs 1 & 2

Time for All Ages

Hymn The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy VU #73 vs 3

Children may retire to Sunday School

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of Immanuel, teach us to trust the unknown. Teach us to see the beauty in fragments, the sacred in the unfinished, the grace in improvisation. Make our hesitation into courage, our fear into wonder, our waiting into joy. Let our lives become places where your presence is visible in small acts of care, patience, and love. Amen.

Assurance of God's Unending Love

***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

Bless these gifts, O God, and bless the hearts that offer them. May they become part of your quiet work, assembling hope where it seems impossible, bringing light where shadows linger, making room for joy, for peace, for life. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Word

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

The sign of Emmanuel

Joseph's dream

Anthem

Central Queens Musical Friends

Responding to the Word

Prayer

Sermon

Instructions Not Included

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of unexpected arrivals, you show up in the middle of our living rooms, on the ferry, on midnight roads, and in places we did not plan. We bring to you our hearts, our fears, and our hopes, trusting that you are already here with us. For those who are navigating uncertainty, who are holding pieces of a life they don't fully understand, we pray for your presence to guide them gently, and for the courage to begin again without instructions.

God with us, help us trust your accompaniment.

For families, especially those welcoming new life, or preparing for change, we pray for patience, for moments of laughter, and for the grace to accept that life may arrive before we are ready.

God with us, help us trust your accompaniment.

For those who are struggling, with illness, grief, anxiety, or broken relationships, we pray that your love may enter quietly into their chaos, not to fix, but to stay, to sit with them, and to give them strength.

God with us, help us trust your accompaniment.

For our world, impatient and hurried, we pray for signs of hope in unexpected places, for courage to pay attention to small

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Continued)

acts of love, and for awareness of your presence among us now.

God with us, help us trust your accompaniment.

We lift all these prayers with the one who shows us the way, who entered our messy world, and who remains with us still: God with us, Immanuel, in all things, always.

Amen.

***Hymn** Angels, from the Realms of Glory VU #36

*Blessing

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

Ministers	All of us
<u>Clergy</u>	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 Christine Belanger for her beautiful gift of music this morning. *Congregation of Central Queens United Church*

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 5:30 pm Inter-Generational Communion Service

Life and Work of Our Church

Vacation – Greg will be on vacation from December 25th – January 3rd. For any emergencies, please contact Bernie Dykerman at 902-626-6869. Eric Lynk will be leading us in worship next Sunday, December 28th.

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. *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 28th, are:

Isaiah 63:7-9 *God’s presence has saved us.*

Responsive Reading – Psalm 148 (VU #871) *Let all creation praise God.*

Hebrews 2:10-18 *Jesus, the pioneer of salvation.*

Matthew 2:13-23 *The escape to Egypt.*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Winsloe United Church Christmas Ceilidh this afternoon, 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” this evening, 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.

A Family Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24th, at 4 pm at South Shore United Church, 85 Rte 10. A relaxed service geared toward young children but open to all ages, retelling the Christmas story and singing a few carols. At 7 pm there will be a Musical Christmas Eve Service with special choral music and congregational carols to guide us to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Over

The Hunter River Helping Hand Program is a monthly food pick up on the second Monday of each month for residents of Hunter River, Greenvale, Brookfield, Rennies Road, New Glasgow, Wheatley River, Hazel Grove, Fredericton and Darlington that register with the program. Applying for help can feel difficult, but please know your application will be handled with compassion and confidentiality.

Registration for the program can be done Monday-Thursday between 9 am and 2 pm at the municipal office located in the Hunter River Community Centre at 19816 Route 2. Proof of residence in the service area for each member of the household will be required at the time of registration. Registered users will need to inform the office by the last Monday of each month if they will be requiring assistance the following month.

Food and monetary donations can be dropped off at the Hunter River Community Centre during regular office hours, Monday-Thursday between 9 am and 2 pm or during library hours Tuesday between 4 pm and 8 pm, Wednesdays 2 pm-5 pm or Friday and Saturday between 9 am and 2pm. The municipal office can be contacted for further details or to answer any questions you may have via email at admin.hunter.river@gmail.com or 902-621-2170.

