

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

**December 7, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**Peace**

**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 communion, 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 the Candle of – Exodus / Peace**

**Reader 1** The story of God's people is one of movement-  
from bondage toward freedom,  
from fear toward trust.  
Peace is found not in stillness alone,  
but in the journey toward justice.

**We long for peace that frees and restores.**

**Reader 2** This candle invites us to walk the exodus path-  
to seek peace that lifts every voice  
and loosens every chain.

*Candle of Peace is lit.*

We light the candle of Peace,  
trusting that God leads us toward liberation.

**May peace shape our steps.**

**Prayer**

**Spirit of life, guide our feet in the way of peace-  
a peace wide enough for every neighbour,  
every creature, every corner of creation. Amen.**

**Bible Presentation**

**\*Introit**      “Hope is a Star”      VU #7 v.2

**\*Call to Worship**

In this season of watching and waiting,  
we gather to remember the God  
who leads people out from fear into freedom,  
from oppression into hope,  
from despair into peace.

**We come as those travelling through our own wilderness,  
listening for the promise of new life.**

A shoot shall rise from a forgotten stump,  
a whisper of peace growing where the world sees only endings.

**We come to welcome that peace:  
quiet enough to steady our hearts,  
bold enough to transform our world.**

Come, let us worship the God  
who calls us forward into a future made whole.

**\*Hymn “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”**

VU #18

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Creator God,  
we gather in these Advent days  
seeking the peace that the world cannot manufacture -  
the peace that grows from justice,  
the peace that takes root in compassion,  
the peace that is bold enough  
to begin in the tiniest of shoots.**

**In a world weary with violence and division,  
plant in us a courage that rises.  
Turn our hearts toward your vision,  
where none are preyed upon,  
and all can rest without fear.**

**Walk with us in this wilderness time,  
and lead us toward the freedom you desire for all people.  
Amen.**

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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **Responsive Psalm 72:1-7, 19-19** VU #790 Parts 1 & 3

**\*Hymn** “Jesus Came, a Child like Me” VU #583 vv. 1, 2

## Time for All Ages

**\*Hymn** “Jesus Came, a Child like Me” VU #583 vv. 3, 4

## Call to Confession

My siblings in Christ, Advent invites us to honesty -  
to name what is broken  
and to trust that healing is possible.  
Let us turn toward the One  
whose mercy moves like a river.

## Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Let us come before God with honesty and trust.

**God of the wilderness path,  
we confess that we are often afraid to change.  
We cling to old habits,  
old wounds,  
old ways of thinking that do not give life.**

**We forget that you call us toward newness-  
toward justice,  
toward courage,  
toward peace.**

**Forgive us, we pray.  
Loosen what binds us  
and free us to walk in your way.  
Amen.**

### **Assurance of God's Unending Love**

Hear the good news:  
God is always leading us toward freedom.  
What feels like a stump,  
God sees as a place for new growth.  
What feels like wilderness,  
God uses to open our eyes.

In the Spirit of the One who brings peace,  
we are forgiven, loved, and renewed.  
Thanks be to God.

**\*Hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle"**

VU #958

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Offertory Invitation**

In a world that too easily settles for fear,  
we dare to practise generosity -  
a quiet act of resistance,  
a way of saying we believe in God's future of peace.  
Let us offer our gifts  
as signs of trust in the One  
who breaks open the world with newness.

## Offertory

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

## “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” VU #149 v.4

## \*Offertory Prayer

**God of the tender shoot and the fierce new beginning,  
in this season of longing  
we bring our gifts -  
small signs of trust  
that your peace is stronger than fear.**

## Use what we offer

**to loosen what harms,  
to lift those who are pressed down,  
to plant seeds of justice  
in places long stripped bare.**

Take our gifts,  
take our lives,  
and weave them into your dream of peace-  
stubborn, generous,  
and beautifully alive. Amen.

## Listening for the Word

## **Prayer for Understanding**

Spirit of Wisdom,  
rest upon us as we listen to ancient words.  
Open our imaginations,  
soften our resistance,  
and stir in us the courage  
to believe that peace is possible-  
in our world,  
and in us.  
Amen

## **Sacred Word**

### **Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

### **Matthew 3:1-12**

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and

all the region along the Jordan,<sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

<sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

## **Anthem**

## **Responding to the Word**

## **Prayer**

Let the words of my mouth,  
and the listening of all our hearts,  
be held in your grace, O God.  
May your peace rest upon us  
and guide us into what is true and life-giving.  
Amen.

## **Sermon** *Peace That Sees Clearly*

## Reflective Music

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

For places where war crushes communities  
and where fear silences ordinary people,  
we pray for leaders who choose justice over power,  
restoration over revenge.

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

For our own country and province,  
for neighbourhoods divided by distrust,  
for households strained by worry or weariness -  
may your peace take root in real and healing ways.

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

For the earth -  
for forests, waters, creatures, and fragile ecosystems  
that long for our care rather than our consumption-  
teach us to live gently.

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

For all who carry grief, illness, anxiety, or pain;  
for those feeling lost in a wilderness season;  
for any who travel a lonely road-  
surround them with comfort, strength, and hope.

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

For this congregation,  
that we may be a community shaped by compassion,  
courage, and generosity -  
embodying peace in ways both small and transformative.

O God, break open the world with your peace,  
*and make us bold to live it.*

Holy One, gather all our prayers—spoken and unspoken—  
into your great longing for a world made whole.

**Amen.**

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

**\*Blessing**

Go now into your week  
as people who trust in God’s gentle disruption.  
May peace take root in you like a tender shoot,  
may justice guide your steps,  
and may hope steady your heart  
as you journey toward the One  
who makes all things new.

Go in peace,  
and may the peace of God go with you.  
Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction**    “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”      VU #1 v. 1

**\*Please rise as you are able.**