

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

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter

Mothering Sunday

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** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

O Transforming Spirit, you draw us into the sacred dance of community.

We behold Jesus—close, earthy, fully among us—learning, listening, loving.

You whisper that the sacred does not stop at our doorways—
that the streets, the fields, the margins are holy ground for your people.

Stir within us a fire for your dream of wholeness—
shape us into a people who seek the flourishing of all.

Call us not just to live, but to wake up—
call us to wonder, to welcome, to love—all that you have made.

***Hymn** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

VU #226

Prayer of Approach

**O Creator of All,
as we gather in this circle of breath and belonging,**

**let us begin—not with words,
but with the hush of holy stillness.**

(Pause)

**Open us—body and spirit—to the quiet thrum of your presence
woven through each face and breath around us.**

**On this Mothering Sunday,
may we honour the sacred act of nurturing—
in mothers, in communities, in all who midwife justice and
mercy.**

**Awaken us to your reflection
in every tender gesture, every longing heart.
Break us open, not to despair,
but to begin again—
as builders of a world where love takes root.**

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 139

VU # 861-962

Poem “In the Arms of Love”

I was born in arms that held me near,
some soft, some strong, some filled with fear.
O God, like a mother, you see us all—
the love, the hurt, the rise, the fall.

You are the arms that hold us tight,
whether born of blood or chosen light.
You are the voice that soothes our pain,
the hands that guide us through the rain.

Not all have known a mother's touch,
but still, you love us, heal us much.
In families formed by many ways,
your love unites us through the days.

You are the heart that lifts the low,
the hope that makes the wounded grow.
You are the one who calls us near,
and wipes away each trembling tear.

So, on this day, we lift our voice,
for mothers, for care, for every choice.
O God, you are the love we seek,
in all who nurture, strong or weak.

***Hymn** “I Can Feel You Near Me God”

MV #48

All God's Children

Hymn "I Can Feel You Near Me God"

MV #48

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We have heard God's call to us,
to share the gifts of grace, love, forgiveness, and time.
So let us give abundantly,
not just from what we have,
but from the overflow of God's love in us.

May our giving be a reflection of God's generosity,
so the work of the church can reach far beyond these walls,
bringing healing, hope, and justice to all.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "We Give Our Thanks"

MV #187 v. 1

***Offertory Prayer**

**Creator, we thank you
for the gifts of your people,
from those who have gone before us
to those who walk beside us,
and those yet to be.
We offer what we have,
so all may flourish and follow your way. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

God of Wisdom,
as we hear your Word today, we thank you for the nurturing love
that shapes us—
the love of mothers, caretakers, and all who care in your name.
Fill us with understanding through your Spirit,
that we may grow in love and follow Jesus, your Living Word.
On this Mothering Sunday, help us reflect your care in all we do
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 66:10-13

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her—

that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the Lord:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.

As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Anthem

Sermon *Bearing Hope, Birthing Change*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God,
who knows the secrets of our hearts,
who sees the shape of our souls,
we stand in the light of your knowing.
We are small, we are fragile,
and still, we are loved.

**You have searched us, O God,
and found us full of grace and wonder.**

In the beauty of this world,
where the trees sway like ancient whispers,
where rivers carry the memory of the earth,
we see your love.
In the laughter of children,
in the quiet spaces between breaths,
we hear your voice calling us to rest.

**We listen, O God,
to your voice in the wind,
in the stillness, in the song of the earth.**

We lift up the broken,
the weary, the lost,
and we ask you, gentle God,
to fill their hearts with your love—
soothing as the morning sun,
steady as the mountain's roots.
For those who suffer in silence,
for those whose eyes are heavy with sorrow,

we pray you will hold them,
the way the earth holds the sky.

**You are near to the broken hearted, O God,
and you carry their burdens in your hands.**

We pray for those who wander—
the ones searching for a place to rest,
the ones whose steps are uncertain.
Guide them, O Creator,
with the steady hand of a mother.
Help us, too, to walk with them,
in your light, in your peace.

**Lead us, O God,
in the ways of compassion,
and help us be gentle as the breeze.**

We thank you for the quiet gifts—
the touch of a hand,
the warmth of a smile,
the grace of a simple prayer.
We thank you for this life,
for its deep and tender moments,
for the wisdom that comes with time,
for the beauty that lives in all things.

**We are grateful, O God,
for the gift of life,
for the grace you show in each moment.**

As we leave this place,
may we carry your love like a flame—
steady, warm, and bright.

May we see you in the faces we meet,
in the stories we hear,
and may we bring your light into the dark places,
the way the stars bring their light to the night.

**We will carry your love, O God,
into the world,
with hearts full of grace and hope.**

And now, we rest in the knowledge
that you have searched us and found us,
that you hold us,
that you are always with us,
leading us toward the quiet of your peace.

Amen.

***Hymn** “Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

MV #150

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**

May the Creator of all life surround you
with the warmth of love,
as a mother wraps her child in tenderness.
May God's strength uphold you in times of need,
just as a mother's embrace strengthens the weary.

May you be a beacon of compassion and grace,
reflecting the nurturing love of the Divine in all that you do.
And may the blessings of this day—
of all mothering, of all care—
fill your heart with peace, joy, and renewal. Amen.

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

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.