

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

November 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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 Presentation

***Introit** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

VU #374 v.1

Call to Worship

When the old gives way to the new, when the familiar begins to crumble —

God is still creating.

When our hands are weary, and our hearts unsure —

God is still creating.

When endings feel final and hope seems distant —

God is still creating.

So come, you who tend, you who mend, you who wonder if it matters.

Come into the stillness,
come into the story,
come into the holy work of beginning again.

We come, trusting that in every ending, God is planting something new.

***Hymn** “God, We Praise You for the Morning”

VU #415

Prayer of Approach

**Creating God,
you shape beauty from brokenness
and breathe life into the dust of what once was.
When we grow tired or uncertain,
remind us that your Spirit is still at work —
greening the rubble,
healing the weary,
and whispering, “*Do not grow tired in doing what is right.*”**

**Open us to your quiet renewal this day.
Let our worship be the soil
in which faith, hope, and love may take root once more.**

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 Reading Isaiah 12:1–6

VU #880

***Hymn** “Each Blade of Grass”

MV #37 vv.1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Each Blade of Grass”

MV #37 v.3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

There are many ways to tend the garden of God’s world —
through care, through service,
through generosity that keeps hope growing.

We are caretakers of grace.
Let us bring our gifts —
symbols of our faithfulness —

trusting that God will bring growth in ways we cannot yet imagine.

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

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?”

VU #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**Holy One,
we bring what we have —
money, time, intention, love —
and place them in your care.
May these gifts become seeds of renewal
in this community and beyond.
May they bloom in compassion,
justice,
and joy.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of wisdom,
breathe through these ancient words,
that we might hear your living Word among us today.
Turn our attention to the tender places —
the endings, the changes, the small signs of new life —

and help us see your presence there.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 65:17–25 (NRSV)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain
or bear children for calamity,

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord —
and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Luke 21:5–19 (NRSV)

When some were speaking about the temple,
how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to
God, he said,
“As for these things that you see,
the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another;
all will be thrown down.”

They asked him,
“Teacher, when will this be,
and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?”

And he said,
“Beware that you are not led astray;
for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time
is near!’
Do not go after them.

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified;
for these things must take place first,
but the end will not follow immediately.”

Then he said to them,
“Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom;
there will be great earthquakes,
and in various places famines and plagues;
and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

But before all this occurs,
they will arrest you and persecute you;
they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons,
and you will be brought before kings and governors because of
my name.

This will give you an opportunity to testify.
So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance;
for I will give you words and a wisdom
that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or
contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers,
by relatives and friends;
and they will put some of you to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name.

But not a hair of your head will perish.
By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

Anthem

Sermon “The Week Before the End”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of endings and beginnings,
we bring before you all that is changing —
in our world, our church, our lives.
When things fall apart,

God, be our steady ground.

For those living with uncertainty —
in war zones, in hospital rooms,
in boardrooms and bedrooms —
grant peace and courage.

God, be our steady ground.

For those who care quietly and faithfully,
whose names may never be known —
teachers, nurses, caretakers, neighbours —
bless the work of their hands.

God, be our steady ground.

For those we love who are ill,
for those who grieve,
and for all who long for renewal.

(silence.)

God, be our steady ground.

For this congregation —
as we face change,
as we tend what has been given to us,
as we trust that you are not finished yet.

God, be our steady ground.

In every ending,
in every tender beginning,
help us notice the first green shoot —
your promise of life,
still unfolding.

Amen.

***Hymn** “I See a New Heaven”

VU #713

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**

Go now as caretakers of God's creation —
gentle with what is fragile,
hopeful in what is uncertain,
faithful in the small things.

And as you go,
may the One who creates and re-creates
bless you with steady hands, open hearts,
and eyes to see the green shoot of new life
breaking through the cracks.

Go in peace —
for even now,
God is still creating.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.