

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

November 2, 2025 – 10:30 am

Twenty-First 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 joy, and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

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 the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation (*Placed during the Introit*)

*Introit

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV #79

*Call to Worship

Come down from your trees of distance and defense.

We come, ready to be seen, ready to be found.

The Holy One is passing through our streets, looking up, calling us by name.

We hear the voice that says, "Come down — I would stay with you today."

Here, there is no crowd to impress, no ladder to climb, no need to hide.

Here, we are met with kindness and called beloved.

Call to Worship (Continued)

Let us come as we are — curious, hopeful, human.

For Love has already set the table and waits for us to come home.

***Hymn** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU #232

Prayer Of Approach

Holy Presence, you move through our streets disguised as kindness, you stop beneath our trees and see us hiding. You do not scold or shame — you simply say, “Come down, I’d love to stay with you today.”

So we climb down — awkward, uncertain, brushing off the bark of fear and pride. We come to this place of grace, where belonging comes before belief, and love always gets the first word.

Be among us now — in the laughter, the silence, the honesty of our gathering. Turn this hour into a homecoming. Amen.

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

Responsive Reading – Psalm 119:137-144 (*Part 6*) VU #841

***Hymn** God Really Blesses Me AGCS #14 vs 1

All God’s Children

Hymn God Really Blesses Me AGCS #14 vs 2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

*Presentation of Offering

***Offertory** We Praise You, O God VU #218 vs 1

*Offertory Prayer

Generous Spirit, what we offer now is small beside your abundance, yet it carries the heartbeat of our gratitude.

Take these gifts — coins and bills, yes — but also time, compassion, and courage. Bless them into stories of healing, into suppers shared, into moments when someone realizes they belong.

May our giving be less about what we lose, and more about what we find: a shared table, a living faith, a world made whole again. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4(*NRSV*) *How long will it be until God acts?*

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 (*NRSV*) *Your faith and love are growing abundantly.*

Luke 19:1-10 (*NRSV*) *Jesus dines with Zacchaeus.*

Anthem “I Saw the Rich Ones” (MV #127) *Choir*

Prayer

Sermon “*The Scandal at Sycamore*”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the open door, we give thanks for moments when grace comes home to us — for friendships rekindled, for forgiveness that grows where bitterness once lived, for laughter that chases away the heavy things.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Continued)

God of grace, draw us home to one another.

We thank you for every Zacchaeus moment — when we dare to come down from our careful heights and find you waiting with open arms.

God of grace, draw us home to one another.

We pray for those who long to be seen — the lonely, the weary, the ones who hide their hurt behind polite smiles. May love find them where they are and call them gently by name.

God of compassion, see them and hold them close.

We pray for this world of ours — still learning what it means to belong to one another. Where there is greed, sow generosity. Where there is cynicism, plant hope. Where there is hunger — in body, mind, or spirit — set the table wide enough for all.

God of justice, make us your partners in peace.

And when the day is done, and the dishes are washed, may we rest knowing we were part of your feast of life.

God of love, keep us thankful, humble, and kind. Amen.

***Hymn** Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour VU #665

***Changing the Light**

***Blessing**

***Choral Benediction** Wherever You May Go MV #216

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
Church Office	
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*

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.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, November 9th, are:

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 *God will shake things up; there will be new splendour.*

Psalm 98 (VU #818) *Sing a new song to God.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 *Let no one deceive you; stand fast in the traditions.*

Luke 20:27-38 *A woman marries seven brothers; whose wife is she in resurrection?*

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

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.

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, November 9th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted. The promotions for November & December are American Eagle - 8%, Boston Pizza - 10%, Gap - 13% and Homesense - 8%.

Sunday School Teachers are Needed – We are in need of teachers to help with our Sunday School ministry. If this is something that you could help with, please contact the church office. Help us to continue this very important ministry.

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.

To The Church Community and Friends – Wendell Clark has moved to Andrews of Park West, Room 112 and always enjoys visits. *Sheryl & Clark*

Annual Frozen Pie Sale –The annual 8” frozen pie sale returns with a variety of delicious flavours including: cherry, apple, strawberry/rhubarb, pumpkin, no sugar added apple, caramel/apple, blueberry, classic berry, and pecan. \$7.50/pie except \$8.50 for pecan. Great treats for dessert, gifts, or hosting. Orders accepted from today, November 9th – Sunday, November 23rd. Tentative date for pickup at the church will be Thursday, December 11th. To order, call Lois at 902-621-0669.

Central Queens United Church First Annual Trivia Challenge will be held on Saturday, November 15th, at 7 pm. Gather your team of 4 and your best “team name”. It’s going to be an evening full of fun questions, laughs, light snacks and maybe even some prizes. Who will take home the Trivia Champion Title?

Weekly Bulletins can be sponsored by you in celebration or remembrance of a loved one. There is a signup sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00.

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.

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 News

Wheatley River Country Craft Fair today, November 2nd, from 9 am – 2 pm at the Wheatley River Community Hall, 16 Rackham Ln. Admission is \$2. Two floors of Island Artists.

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh this afternoon, November 2nd, at 2 pm. Host Jacinta MacDonald welcomes special guests Kim Albert and Mike Arsenault. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Winsloe United Church Christmas Concert featuring Men of the Harvest will be held on Sunday, November 16th, at 3:30 pm. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 3 pm.

Community News (Continued)

Environmental Health Fall Volunteer Food Safety Courses – Fall Volunteer Food Safety courses are now open for registration. This course is applicable to volunteers or staff with non-profit organizations. Courses are available at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Stratford on this Tuesday, November 4th, at 6 pm; and St. Paul's Church Hall in Charlottetown on Wednesday, November 19th, at 9:30 am. Interested individuals can register by calling 902-368-4970 or by emailing envhealth@ihis.org.

Online Fall Auction – Park Royal Church will be hosting their third online auction from November 14th – November 24th. Auction items range from gift cards for food, gas, golf etc., coffee parties, Christmas gifts, movies, Fall Décor items, painting, dog walking, baked goods, new handcrafted items, dinner parties, theatre tickets, yoga classes, Islanders tickets, hair dressing, new handcrafted items, car cleaning/detailing, the list is endless!! The auction site will go live at 8 am on November 14th at which time you may join the group at 'Park Royal United Church Online Fall Auction 2025' and start your bidding. An ideal opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. Auction closes at 8 pm on November 24th. Pickup of items for successful bidders will be on Saturday, November 29th from 10 am – 12 pm.

Former 'Blue Crystals' Concert - Park Royal United Church presents a special concert on Saturday, November 15th, at 7 pm, featuring members of the former Blue Crystals—David Altass, Gary Cudmore, Ian Hunter, Paul Chandler, and more—performing classic hits from the 1960's & 1970's across contemporary, country, and rock genres. Fudge sale at intermission (cash only). Tickets are available now. \$15 for adults, free for children, and available online via Eventbrite, at the church office, e-transfer or at the door (cash only). Proceeds support Park Royal United Church programs. For details, call (902) 894-9656.

Mission and Service - Faith, Farming, and Friendship

For the first time in human history, more people live in cities than in rural areas, and that shift has brought new challenges, especially in caring for the Earth. In Japan, your Mission and Service gifts support a partner that's responding with vision and hope: the Asian Rural Institute (ARI).

Founded in 1973 by Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, ARI trains rural leaders from the Global South in servant leadership, sustainable agriculture, and community building. Each year, participants from around the world come together for nine months of hands-on learning, studying, farming, cooking, and cleaning side by side. The farm provides almost all of the food they eat, and the surplus supports their neighbours.

This year, your support through Mission and Service helped purchase a used minibus for ARI and provided scholarships for six participants: Arun from Sri Lanka, Robert from Liberia, Lily from Zambia, Lukogo from Congo, Sarmo from Indonesia, and Bob from Kenya.

They're learning organic farming methods like composting, natural pest control, and ways to keep soil healthy. As Arun says, "God creates everything in order. If things are in order, then everything will be okay. Everything is connected."

But the lessons go beyond agriculture. Students also learn about servant leadership, leading by serving others. "Peace is number one," explains Bob. "Then love."

For Lily from Zambia, it's been especially powerful to see so many women in leadership roles. She shares, "It inspired me to show others what is possible."

Life at ARI isn't easy. Days begin early, with prayer and physical work. Cultural differences, personalities, and misunderstandings do sometimes lead to conflict. Yet these tensions also provide rich opportunities to learn reconciliation, communication, and collective responsibility. Robert said, "It is wonderful to be in diversity. There are a lot of things I like and don't like. It is a challenge to learn to overcome them. It shifted my perception on how to live, to respect

Mission and Service (Continued)

culture and not to offend. It is teaching me how to live.” Arun summed up, “It is sacred to live in this environment.”

Through your gifts for Mission and Service, participants at ARI experience transformation in their faith, their farming, and their leadership. And when they return home, they bring that transformation with them, helping their communities grow in hope, peace, and sustainability. Thank you.

Thank you for helping seeds of change take root around the world. To learn more about ARI and the participants you support, you can read the full story online.

I COME TO MEET YOU

I come to meet You, God, and as I linger here

I seem to feel You very near.

A rustling leaf, a rolling slope

Speak to my heart of endless hope.

The sun just rising in the sky,

The waking birdlings as they fly,

The grass all wet with morning dew

Are telling me I just met You.

And gently thus the day is born

As night gives way to breaking morn,

And once again I've met You, God,

And worshipped on Your holy sod.

For who could see the dawn break through

Without a glimpse of heaven and You?

For who but God could make the day

And softly put the night away?

By: Helen Steiner Rice