

Central Queens Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

November 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Reign of Christ 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 Presentation

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

VU #374 v.1

Call to Worship

On this threshold Sunday, as the long green season closes,
we gather beneath a softened banner--
no longer *Christ the King*,
but *The Reign of Christ*--
a reign not of power, but of presence.

**We come with open hearts,
seeking a sovereignty woven from compassion.**

The world trembles with old stories of domination,
yet here a different story rises -
a tenderness that refuses the throne.

**We come to listen for the voice
that calls us back to ourselves,
and to one another.**

Be still.

Be here.

The Holy One walks among us.

**Thanks be to the One
who reigns through mercy.**

***Hymn** “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

VU #326

Prayer of Approach

**O Christ,
who reigns not from a palace
but from the deep places of the human heart,
gather us in.
Still the noise within us
so we may hear the quiet truth of your love.
Where our world is brittle,
soften us.
Where our spirits are weary,
lift us.
Where our hope is thin,
breathe new light.**

**Let this hour open in us
a spaciousness for wonder,
a courage for compassion,
and a longing for the justice
that beats like a pulse within your reign.
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 Reading Psalm 46

VU #772

***Hymn** "Love Is the Touch"

MV #89 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn "Love Is the Touch"

MV #89 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

In a world ruled too often by grasping hands,
Christ invites us into another way--
a way where giving becomes liberation,
and generosity becomes its own quiet revolution.

What we offer today is not payment or duty,
but a gesture of trust,
a widening of the heart
in the name of the One
whose reign is made of mercy.

Let us bring what we can,
and even what we doubt is enough.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?”

VU #191

***Offertory Prayer**

**Receive these gifts, O Christ -
tokens of gratitude,
symbols of our longing for your reign.
Bless them with your tenderness.
Let them become bread for the hungry,
light for those in shadow,
and hope for those who have forgotten**

that hope is possible.

Amen

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Holy Presence,
you who speak through prophets and poets,
through psalms whispered in the night
and stories told on windswept hills,
open us now to these ancient words.

Let them trouble us where we need troubling,
and comfort us where we need comfort.
Let them draw us toward the Christ
 who reigns by kneeling,
 who leads by listening,
 who loves with a fierce and tender grace.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

“Woe to the shepherds
who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!”
says the Lord.

Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel,
concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people:

It is you who have scattered my flock,
and have driven them away,
and you have not attended to them.
So I will attend to you
for your evil doings,
says the Lord.

Then I myself will gather
the remnant of my flock
out of all the lands where I have driven them.
And I will bring them back to their fold,
and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

I will raise up shepherds over them
who will shepherd them,
and they shall not fear any longer,
or be dismayed,
nor shall any be missing,
says the Lord.

The days are surely coming,
says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David
a righteous Branch.
He shall reign as king
and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice
and righteousness in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved,
and Israel will live in safety.
And this is the name by which he will be called:

“The Lord is our righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord.

Luke 23:33-43

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When they came to the place
that is called *The Skull*,
they crucified Jesus there
with the criminals —
one on his right
and one on his left.

Then Jesus said,
“Forgive them,
for they do not know
what they are doing.”
And they cast lots
to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching.
But the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

“He saved others;
let him save himself,

if he is the Messiah of God,
his chosen one!”

The soldiers also mocked him —
coming up and offering him sour wine —
and saying,

“If you are the King of the Jews,
save yourself!”

There was also an inscription over him:
“This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals
who were hanged there
kept deriding him and saying,

“Are you not the Messiah?
Save yourself — and us!”

But the other rebuked him, saying,

“Do you not fear God,
since you are under
the same sentence of condemnation?

And we indeed have been condemned justly,
for we are getting what we deserve
for our deeds.

But this man
has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said,

“Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.”

He replied,

“Truly I tell you,
today you will be with me
in Paradise.”

The Gospel of Christ.

Anthem

Sermon The Kingdom That Kneels

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the broken and the brave,
we pray for a world aching under the weight of violence and fear.
Where leaders cling to power,
teach them the wisdom of humility.
Where nations fracture,
breathe reconciliation.

Christ of compassion, let your mercy reign.

For those who carry illness or grief,
who wake to days heavy with uncertainty —
wrap them in your gentleness.
Let healing rise like dawn on their horizon.

Christ of compassion, let your mercy reign.

For the earth -
patient, wounded, still offering beauty -
teach us to honour her with our choices,
to walk lightly and gratefully.

Christ of compassion, let your mercy reign.

For this community —
for the quiet kindness that stitches us together,
for the courage we share,
and the hope we hold in trust for one another —
bless us, that we may become
a living sign of your gentle sovereignty.

Christ of compassion, let your mercy reign.

Amen.

***Hymn** “To Show By Touch and Word”

VU #427

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 into the world
under the soft but steady reign of Christ—
the One who rules not from above
but from beside you,
within you,
and through the very act of courage and kindness
you dare to offer.

May your life be a doorway to hope,
your hands an instrument of peace,
your presence a quiet blessing
in a world longing to be made whole.

Go in love.
Go in grace.
Go in peace.

Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.