

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

November 30, 2026

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

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 Creation / Hope

Reader 1

In the beginning, God spoke light into being.

A first grace. A first promise.

Today we remember that the world is still being made new.

We long for hope that is steady and true.

Reader 2

This candle reminds us that hope is not wishful thinking-
it is the quiet insistence
that love will have the final word.

Candle is lit

We light the candle of Hope,
trusting that the Light shines
even when the way is uncertain.
May hope continue to rising through us.

Prayer

**Holy one, kindle in us a hope that endures,
that we may join you in healing this aching world.
Amen.**

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Hope is a Star" VU #7 v.1

***Call to Worship**

In this season of waiting, we lift our eyes to the horizon.
We long for the dawn, for the first light of hope.

The Holy One comes, quietly, like morning through a half-opened
curtain.

We awaken to wonder, and open our hearts to grace.

Let us rise in spirit, shake off the dust of the weary night,
for a new day is beginning, and Love draws near.

Come, let us worship God.

With hope, with longing, with trust in the Light.

Prayer of Approach

**O Holy Presence,
you come to us like the hush before sunrise -
tender, steady, and full of promise.
As we gather on this first Sunday of Advent,
kindle in us a light that no darkness can overcome.
Awaken our spirits, calm our fears,
and draw us into the deep peace of your heart.
In this waiting time,
help us listen for your whisper
and watch for your coming
in the small, the fragile, and the unexpected.**

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 122

VU #845

***Hymn** “Never Ending Joy”

MV #40 v. 1, 2

Time for All Ages

***Hymn** “Never Ending Joy”

MV #40 v. 3

Call to Confession

Beloved 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 rises like dawn.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Loving God,
we confess that we have been drowsy in spirit,
slow to notice your nearness,
and quick to lose ourselves in lesser lights.**

**We have not always walked in your ways,
or lived as children of day.**

**Forgive us.
Awaken what has grown dim within us.
Renew our longing for what is true.
And guide our steps into the path of peace. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Unending Love

Hear the good news:
The Holy One comes not with judgment,
but with compassion.
In Christ, the night is lifted,
the dawn is breaking,
and we are set free to begin again.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.
You are made new.
Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Advent invites us to practise hope -
not simply as an inner feeling,
but as a way of living.
As we offer our gifts,
may they become seeds of light
in a world longing for renewal.
Let us give with gratitude and trust.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

VU #149 v.4

***Offertory Prayer**

**Giver of every good gift,
we offer these gifts with hopeful hearts.
Bless what we bring and bless our desire
to walk in your light.
May these offerings become instruments of healing,
carriers of compassion,
and signs of your coming hope.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

O God of quiet wisdom,
as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed,
open a window in our souls.
Let your Word fall gently upon us-
clarifying, awakening, deepening.
May we hear what is meant for each of us today,
and may your Spirit guide us
into the beauty of your truth.
Amen.

Sacred Word

Romans 13:11–14

Besides this, you know what time it is,
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now

than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light;
let us live honourably as in the day,
not in revelling and drunkenness,
not in debauchery and licentiousness,
not in quarrelling and jealousy.
Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the flesh,
to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36–44

But about that day and hour no one knows —
not the angels of heaven,
not even the Beloved,
but only God.

For as it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be with the coming of the Human One.
In those days before the flood,
people were eating and drinking,
marrying and being given in marriage,
until the day Noah entered the ark.
And they knew nothing until the flood came
and swept them all away.
So it will be at the coming of the Human One.

Then two people will be in the field;
one will be taken and one will remain.

Two people will be grinding grain together;
one will be taken and one will remain.

So keep awake,
for you do not know on what day your Sovereign is coming.
But understand this:
if the owner of a house had known
in what part of the night a thief would come,
they would have stayed awake
and would not have allowed the house to be broken into.

Therefore, you also must be ready,
for the Human One is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Anthem

Responding to the Word

Prayer

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy One of the Advent dawn,
we come before you in this tender season of waiting.
We carry the hopes of our lives and the hopes of the world,
trusting that your light is already rising.

For all who wake this day with fear,
with illness, or with uncertainty —

wrap them in your calm presence
and let the first light of hope reach them.

For those who long for healing of the body,
healing of the mind,
or healing of the spirit -
breathe your gentle strength into them
and guide the hands of those who care for them.

For people who are grieving,
for those with empty chairs at their tables
or memories that ache -
surround them with your compassion
and give them the courage to face each new day.

For our island home,
for our communities, our neighbours, and our families -
teach us to walk in the way of peace.
Make us instruments of your hope
in the places where shadows still linger.

For the earth itself -
its seas and forests, its creatures and winds -
awaken us to our responsibility
and help us live as grateful caretakers
of the world entrusted to us.

For this congregation,
as we enter a season of expectation —
open our hearts to the small, quiet ways
you come among us.

Keep us watchful, keep us generous,
keep us rooted in love.

Holy One,
hold our prayers in your tenderness.
Awaken us to the beauty that is unfolding,
to the hope that is growing,
and to your presence that never leaves us.

In the light of this Advent morning, we pray.
Amen.

***Hymn** “For the Healing of the Nations”

VU #678

***Blessing**

May the blessing of the Advent dawn
rise gently upon your life —
a light to steady your steps,
a warmth to strengthen your spirit,
and a hope that holds you
through every shadow and every storm.

May the Holy Presence go before you,
behind you,
above you,
and within you,
this day and always.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VU #1 v. 1

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