

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

January 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Epiphany 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 Touch our Hearts MV #12 v.1

Call to Worship

Come, you who have been carried through seasons of change and challenge.

We come, weary and hopeful, ready to be gathered.

Come, you who have stumbled, who have wept, who have wondered if the road would end.

We come, trusting God walks with us still.

Come, you who are becoming, who carry memory, story, and prayer into a new year.

We come, to receive light, grace, and the Word dwelling among us.

Let us worship God.

Let us worship God with joy, hope, and gratitude.

***Hymn** Called by Earth and Sky MV #135

Prayer of Approach

**God of beginnings and continuity,
we enter this new year carrying all that we have been.
We carry joys and sorrows, wounds and wisdom, endings and
new dreams.
Meet us here, as we are.
Speak your Word into our lives,
so we may walk in your light and receive your grace.
Help us to trust that the remnant you gather —
even us — are enough for the journey ahead.**

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 147:12–20

VU #869 Part Two

***Hymn I Am the Light of the World**

VU #87 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn I Am the Light of the World

VU #87 vv. 3, 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

As we begin this year, let us remember that all we have is entrusted to us.

We carry gifts, stories, and resources that can be shared to bring hope and light.

Let us give generously, trusting that God multiplies what is offered in love.

We give with gratitude, knowing that God uses even the smallest gifts to build a future filled with hope.

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory In the Bleak Mid-Winter**

VU #55 v. 4

***Offertory Prayer**

God of the remnant, we offer these gifts not because they are perfect, but because they are what we carry. Use them to gather those who are weary, to comfort those in sorrow,

**and to light the path for all who walk with uncertainty.
Bless these offerings and the hearts that gave them.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Holy God, as we hear your Word today,
open our minds and hearts.
Help us to receive your light in the midst of our darkness,
your guidance in the midst of uncertainty,
and your presence in the midst of all that we carry.
By your Spirit, teach us again what it means to be your remnant—
not perfect, not alone, but held and sent.
Amen.

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 31:7–14

For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations^[a] I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.^[b]
I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

John 1:1–18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, ^[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ^[b]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, ^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, ^[d] full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ^[e] ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever

seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who^[f] is close to the Father's heart,^[g] who has made him known.

Anthem

Prayer

Let the words of my mouth,
and the listening of all our hearts,
be held in your grace, O God.
May your peace rest upon us
and guide us into what is true and life-giving.
Amen.

Sermon *The Remnant: What We Carry Into the New Year*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Let us pray together, lifting our hearts to God for the world, the church, and one another.

For those beginning a new season of life, filled with hope or anxiety,
gather them, O God, and lead them forward.

For those carrying grief, loss, or weariness,
gather them, O God, and give them rest and renewal.

For our communities, near and far, as they seek light in darkness,
gather them, O God, and shine your presence among them.

For the church, as we step into a new year, with changes and unknown paths,
gather us, O God, and guide us to be faithful, open, and welcoming to all.

For those who are lonely, isolated, or marginalized,
gather them, O God, and surround them with your care and compassion.

For those who work for justice, peace, and reconciliation in our world,
gather them, O God, and bless their efforts with wisdom and perseverance.

For families and friends, in moments of joy and in times of struggle,
gather them, O God, and hold them in your love.

For the young and the old, the dreamers and the doubters, the seekers and the faithful,
gather them, O God, and walk beside them in every step.

For ourselves, as we carry memory, stories, and hopes into the days ahead,
gather us, O God, and teach us to trust your grace upon grace.

And in the silence of our hearts, we lift the prayers we cannot speak aloud...

(moment of silent prayer)

God of the remnant, hear us and renew us in your presence.
Gather us, O God, and keep us in your care. Amen.

***Hymn** A Light is Gleaming

VU #82

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, carrying who you are becoming into the new year.
Carry your memories, your scars, your joys, and your prayers.
Go as the remnant, gathered and held by God.
Go with light in your path, grace in your heart, and the Word
dwelling among you.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** May the God of Hope Go with Us VU #424

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**