

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

**August 16, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Eleventh 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.**

**Gathering for Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Birthdays & Special Occasions**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Quiet Preparation for Worship**

**Bible Presentation**

**Introit**      "Where Two or Three Are Gathered"      MV #14 X3

**Greeting**

In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit. All are welcome here.      **Amen.**

## Call to Worship

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

**God meets us here.**

We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

Hymn

“Deep in our Hearts”

MV #154

## Prayer of Approach

Maker of Our Days,  
you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

**Restorer of Our Souls,**

**you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along with the devastation thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that our facades of self-sufficiency might fall away, and we might be drawn into right relationship with you and one another.**

Breath of Our Lives, without you we are but a mound of clay. Fill us with your presence, invigorate our worship, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care.

*We share in the ancient prayer Jesus prayed ...*

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who 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.**

**Psalm 133**

VU #856

**Hymn** "Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome"

MV #137

**All God's Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Prayer of Confession**

When we try to go it on our own lacking faith in divine  
providence,  
**Lord have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

When we have not recognized God at work in the faith of others,  
**Christ have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

In all that we have done and all that we have left undone,

**Lord have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

### **Assurance of God unending love**

God calls each of us by name and cries out with tears of joy as we recognize God in our admission of need.

**Praise be to God who welcomes us as we are,  
challenges us to let go of our guilt  
and provides a way for us to walk on together.**

### **Offertory Invitation**

In times of plenty and want, God provides for our deepest needs.  
Give generously out of the abundance of God's blessing  
so that in these challenging times God's work might continue.

**Offertory**

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

### **Presentation of Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Holy God, you are our provider.  
We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings  
from your blessing and our labour.  
Work in us and through us to extend your love and care,  
here and around the world. Amen.**

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Readings

#### Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Living Christ, so many different people reached out to you in times of desperation with so many different needs. Yet you had compassion for them all. Christ Jesus, we know both struggle and joy in our lives, too. This day we set before you our many different hopes and concerns. Fill us with your compassion as we pray.

For all that we are and all that we do, all we wish we could do and all we long for...

*(silence)*

We pray for everything we work for in our church and community, and everything we hope for in the face of so much change...

*(silence)*

We pray for the choices we face in our country and community, in our homes and workplaces, and for all the responsibilities we bear in our different roles...

*(silence)*

We pray for the troubles that weary us, the situations that puzzle us and the uncertainty that surrounds us...

*(silence)*

We remember before you each situation that worries us and each person we care about...

*(silence)*

Living Christ, you are the Source of peace and new possibility for us all. Help us trust in your grace for today and tomorrow. Fill us with the strength and hope we need to walk with you, united in your love. Amen

## **Responding to the Word**

### **Hymn**

“O For a World”

VU # 697

## **Blessing**

You have been reconciled with Christ.  
Do the work of Christ in the world:  
extend support to those in need,  
speak up for those cast aside,  
build bridges of reconciliation,  
strengthen bonds of community,  
knowing that  
the Maker of Our Days,  
the Restorer of Our Souls  
and the Breath of Our Lives  
will be with you this day and ever more.  
**Amen.**

## **Choral Benediction**

## **Postlude**