

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

**August 2, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Ninth 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**

**Call to Worship**

The day breaks  
**and God does not let us go.**  
The hour calls  
**and God does not let us go.**  
The evening falls

**and God holds us fast.**

Let us turn to God in worship,

**God, who never turns from us.**

Hymn "Come Now, Almighty King"

VU #314

### **Prayer of Approach**

God, you see us.

You see our struggles,

you see our difficulties,

**you see our possibilities,**

**you see our promise.**

Connect the dots for us, O God.

Soften the hard spots with your blessing.

**Call us in our wandering to hear you say our names.**

**Satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven.**

For you are a good God, a God present in the scramble,  
and in the end, you always, always have a blessing.

**For this and so much more,**

**we give you thanks, through Jesus who is the Christ.**

*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 17:1-7,15**

VU #739

**Hymn**

**“I am A Child of God”**

MV #157

**All God’s Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Offertory Invitation**

When resources were short, did Christ worry?  
No! Christ saw the gifts, and Christ multiplied them!  
This is the miracle we witness every time we give to the church.  
God will take what we have, and God will do good things with it.  
You are invited to give, and even to participate in the miracle  
of God’s multiplying acts.

**Offertory**

**“What Can I Do?”**

MV #191

**Presentation of Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things:  
we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us.  
May these gifts be as loaves and fishes  
for those who find themselves in poverty or  
hunger.  
**May this act of giving bring about change:  
change in our lives,  
change in the lives we touch,**

**change in the systems that harm.**

Through Christ, who gave so much to save. **Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Readings**

#### **Genesis 32:22-31**

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

## **Matthew 14:13-21**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Anthem**

### **Sermon**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

O God, we give you thanks for your goodness in all the times of our lives. Even in the uncertainties of this present moment, we are grateful for the

strength and courage we find, knowing you are right beside us. Give us the wisdom and patience we need to face a future filled with many questions and challenges.

Aware of our own needs today, we are reminded by Christ's compassion that so many others nearby and much further away experience even greater struggles. And so we lift up our prayers for the world, seeking your guidance so that we may do our part to bring comfort, healing and hope.

We pray for all who are sick or in pain, that they may have the medical assistance they need and the gift of healing in body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for those who are grieving, that they may know the comfort of your presence and find hope in your promises. Especially we remember those whose lives have been changed by COVID-19 and ask that you will support their recovery and heal relationships affected by this disease.

*(Keep silence for at least 15 seconds)*

We pray for those who are hungry or homeless, and all those experiencing the stress of poverty and economic uncertainty. Give those with more resources the confidence to share generously. We pray for leaders in our communities and in our nation, as they seek ways to recover well-being in the face of the global pandemic. Give them wisdom and courage to make decisions for the well-being of the most vulnerable.

*(Keep silence for at least 15 seconds)*

We pray for those who seek to show hospitality to others in their homes, in their workplaces, in the church and the community, that their generosity will inspire others to open their hearts so that your goodness at work in the world will be multiplied. We pray for prisoners and for those who work in prisons, especially for chaplains and volunteers who bring your word of love and grace to the incarcerated. After long weeks and months deprived of familiar contact, help us all understand the stress of being imprisoned. May those who represent the face of Christ in these environments find strength and wisdom in your companionship and offer ministry of reconciliation and renewal that you desire for everyone.

*(Keep silence for at least 15 seconds)*

Jesus Christ, you walk with us through all the days of challenge and celebration. Be our Bread for the journey of life, to sustain us and encourage us, whatever the week ahead holds for us. Amen.

## Responding to the Word

**Hymn**

“And When You Call for Me” MV #96

**Blessing**

God’s peace: carry, keep and hold you.  
God’s love: nourish, bless and enfold you.  
God’s spirit: inspire, lift and mold you.  
Almighty God: Triune, holy and blessed  
Be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**