

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

August 30, 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

Greeting

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

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Once there was a person who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him. But they didn't know who he was. So one day they simply had to ask him. "Who are you?" and he said, "I am the light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

Introit

“Dance with the Spirit”

MV #156 X3

Call to Worship

**We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
seek God here.**

**We who come to be inspired and challenged,
seek God’s Spirit here.**

**We who know how little we know,
seek God’s Word here.**

**We are called to worship with mind, heart, and soul!
So let it be...**

Hymn

"Come, Let us Sing"

VU #222

Prayer of Approach

**God, you are made known to us in the swirling wind that blows,
in the blazing fire that does not consume,
in the face of the good,
in the depth of the unknown.**

We meet you here. We accept your greeting.

We welcome your inspiration.

We await the change you have in store for us.

Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention.

Bring us to you – you who are already with us.

Help us to be as you would have us be.

**Through Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

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 105:1-6, 23-26,45c

VU #828-829

Hymn

“Your Love Is Amazing”

MV #26

All God’s Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

As Jesus’ followers, we have the privilege of taking part in the redeeming work God has begun in the world. Today we offer our gifts in anticipation that God will use them—and us—in that work! We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

**In your Creation, O God, we stand on the holiest of ground.
May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made.
May the church, organizations and people that receive them act
as your hands. May needs be seen and met,
and may the giving fit the need.
Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of

the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Jesus! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his God, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you,

there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

O God in whom we live and move and have our being
We come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close
And we prepare for an autumn filled with many changes:

We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed this summer.
savouring the beauty of your creation right outside our doors,
Thank you for the chances we've had catch up with family and friends,
and whatever opportunities for travel, recreation, and restoration have
been possible. We recognize how blessed we are to live in Canada
and so we are grateful for each moment in which we found rest and
relaxation in the summer season.

Today we remember those for whom this summer has been difficult:
Those still isolated by the restrictions because of COVID-19;
Those who go hungry or face violence in forgotten corners of our own
community and around the world;
Those whose businesses are struggling, who have to figure out how to be
inviting and safe at the same time;
And those who are uncertain how to engage with friends and neighbours
and still be wise and careful in this strange time of pandemic.

(Keep silence for 10 seconds)

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company
O God, Jesus walked the road of suffering with so many in pain and grief
We remember those whose lives have faced crises this summer—
Through tragic death and unexpected loss,
Through critical illness or injury,
Through pain or problems that seem to have no end...

(Keep silence for 10 seconds)

Surround them with your comfort and compassion O God,

Jesus often faced many demands and the pressure from his critics,
So we pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:
For leaders trying to figure out ways forward to care for their communities
when there are no examples to follow;
For those whose jobs and responsibilities have changed, and every day
presents a new challenge;
And we also remember all those who seek work in these uncertain
economic times

(Keep silence for 10 seconds)

May they know your strength and assurance day by day
O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.
Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.
Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace
to those we encounter, in the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn "I have Called You by Your Name" MV #161

Blessing

The blessing of Almighty God:
Source, Word and Spirit, One,
be with us now and always. Amen.

Extinguishing of the Candle

I'm going to change the light so it is not just in one place any more. It
can be in many places all at once. Watch.

Choral Benediction

Postlude