

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

**August 9, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Tenth 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**

Those who wait upon the God shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

**We need this kind of hope!**

Come; worship the Holy One who meets you where you are.  
Come; open yourselves to the God who lifts us up.  
**No matter where we worship; we are here to be embraced  
by God.**

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

### **Prayer of Approach**

**God of Presence,**

**as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples,  
meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives.**

**God of Renewal,**

**as you lifted Peter from the water,  
lift us from despair to hope,  
from distraction to focus,  
from death to life.**

**God of the Journey,**

**direct us in your way,  
work out your purpose in and through our lives.**

**We pray in the name of the one who is the living  
Christ. 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, 16-22, 45b**

**VU #828-829 Parts 1&2**

**Hymn**

**“Like a Rock”**

**MV #92**

**All God’s Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Offertory Invitation**

You are saved. You believed. You are sent.  
Offer yourselves then to the work of invitation,  
community and purpose in our homes, neighbourhood,  
online, and around the world. We give our out gratitude,  
we give because we are called, we give as we are able.

**Offertory**

**“What Can I Do?”**

**MV #191**

**Presentation of Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

**We offer to you our whole lives as a living sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving. Use us; multiply us and the gifts we offer, in  
person, by mail, or online, to extend the invitation of life,  
community as everyone we meet. Amen.**

**Listening for the Word**

**Sacred Readings**

**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him...

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they

took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

### **Matthew 14:22-33**

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind

ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

God of all people,  
your love and grace sustain the world and all who live in it. When we foolishly set up walls between people, you tear them down and draw us into one family, united in Christ and in compassion. The pandemic has filled so many nations and neighbours with turmoil and fear. So we come before you with prayers for the world you love.

Astonishing God, you surprise us.  
You come to us in unforeseen circumstances and in unexpected people. We give you thanks for all the healers and heroes who have stepped forward during the pandemic to surprise us with kindness and courage. We pray for all who still face upheaval and uncertainty because of COVID-19. Call out leaders with wisdom and imagination to address the fear and change we are facing. And fill our hearts with compassion and understanding for the most fearful.

God of peace, you reassure us.  
You remind us not to be afraid when troubles arise. We pray for all people who live in precarious situations not related to the pandemic. Assure them they are not forgotten. We pray for those who struggle with illness, grief or depression. May they know your peace and strength. Equip us to reach out in every way we can to embody your love in our words and actions.

God of hope, you challenge us.

You come to us in the midst of trouble and invite us to stand for justice and work for truth. We pray for all those people crying out for fair treatment, working against racism and discrimination, telling painful stories of their lives. Open our hearts with understanding and motivate us to act for change. We pray for those who resist the stories of injustice and defend inequality. Open their minds to the truths they deny and show them new possibilities for relationships that bridge divides. Send your Spirit to work in our communities to create mutual respect and new ways to live as neighbours.

Faithful God, we place our trust in you and your purposes. Answer our prayers according to your wisdom and will, for we offer them humbly in the name of Jesus our brother. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**Hymn**     "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"     VU #563

### **Blessing**

You have been raised with Christ.  
Do the work of Christ in the world:  
extend a hand to those in need,  
speak up for those others would cast aside,  
build bridges of reconciliation,  
strengthen bonds of community,  
and extend the invitation of life,  
community and purpose to others knowing that  
the God who created you,  
the Christ who redeems you  
and the Spirit who empowers you  
will be with you this day and ever more.  
**Amen.**

**Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**