

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

**July 26, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Eighth 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 "We Are One" VU #402**

**Call to Worship**

The kin-dom of heaven is like:

**A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree.**

The kin-dom of heaven is like:

**A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise.**

The kin-dom of heaven is like:

**A tiny pearl of great price**

**that we would give all our "stuff" to have.**

The kin-dom of heaven is like:

**A fishing boat filled with catch—good and bad together—  
with fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.**

In this kin-dom, here and yet to be we gather in hope and praise.  
We come to worship and praise.

**Hymn**            “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”            VU #220

### **Prayer of Approach**

Holy One,  
you call us to find your kin-dom  
already hidden in our world—  
in tiny, transforming possibilities;  
in beauty that calls us to surrender all;  
in complicated choices that call for wisdom.  
Reveal yourself here in this moment  
And heighten our senses that we may find you  
And join you in building this kin-dom of love, and hope, and  
peace. In the name of the One who calls us to seek,  
Jesus, 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 105: 1-11, 45b**

VU #828 Part One

**Hymn**

**“What a Friend We have In Jesus”**

VU #664

**All God’s Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Offertory Invitation**

God has blessed us with gifts and resources, signs of God’s goodness and generosity. Let us share our abundance with others through our offerings, so they too may rejoice in God’s goodness.

**Offertory**

**“What Can I Do?”**

MV #191

**Presentation of Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

Loving God, you are so faithful and generous to us. We offer these gifts to you in Jesus’ name, trusting that you will bless them and us, so that your goodness is multiplied to touch the lives of those in need, for Christ’s sake. Amen.

**Listening for the Word**

**Sacred Readings**

## **Genesis 29:15-28**

Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

## **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

**Anthem**            "Wonderful, Merciful Saviour"       Sarah Annema

**Sermon**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Good and generous God,

In Jesus Christ you came to us, promising us life in abundance.

We give you thanks today for the abundant gifts we receive in him:

Assurance of your love day by day;

Relief of mercy when we recognize our own failings;

Hope renewed when things seem bleak;  
Peace that comes when we trust ourselves to your  
eternal keeping.

These are the gifts that matter, O God, so for all the times we  
experience these gifts we thank you in these moments of silence:

*(Keep silence for at least 10 seconds)*

Generous God, the world is going through difficult times this  
summer.

So we pray for all whose lives seem empty of joy:

Because plans have changed, and friends seem far away.

Because hearts are filled with disappointment and  
loneliness.

Because sorrow and grief rise up each day.

Support each one we name in this silence with your abundant  
compassion:

*(Keep silence for at least 10 seconds)*

Generous God, so many things must be rearranged because of the  
pandemic and what it has revealed.

We pray for those whose lives are empty of purpose,  
and for those who do not know the respect of their neighbours:

Because they are without work.

Because they face discrimination and are devalued in our  
communities.

Because they have made poor choices and cannot find a way  
forward.

Support each one we name in this silence with your abundant  
mercy and show them signs of hope:

*(Keep silence for at least 10 seconds)*

Generous God,

We remember before you in silence those whose lives are  
empty of peace and hope:

Because they struggle with illness or disability.  
Because they are powerless in the face of violence.  
Because old animosities rankle and opportunities for  
reconciliation are elusive.

*(Keep silence for at least 10 seconds)*

Send your dove of peace and promise to create new possibilities  
for each one.

Good and generous God, fill us with the energy and compassion of  
your Spirit to reach out to those facing difficult times. May we  
become the gift we have received in Jesus for it is in his name we  
pray. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**Hymn**                      “I See a New Heaven”      VU #713

### **Blessing**

Go forth in Wisdom, in hope, in courage  
With hearts open to recognize the signs of the reign of God in our  
midst, and courage to create more space for grace in our lives and  
our world. Amen.

**Choral Benediction**      “We Are One”      VU #402

### **Postlude**