

**Central Queen's Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada**

May 17, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Sixth of Easter

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

Bulletins today are given in loving memory of my father, **Roy Smith** (August 10, 1923 to May 17, 2010) by Gordon, Margaret, Debbie, and Douglas Smith.

In memory of the **Rev. Charles Wagner** remembered by Central Queens Musical Friends.

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

Introit

"And On This Path"

MV #8

Call to Worship

Let us see you this day, O God,
Come to us as light.

Let us hear you this day, O God.
Come to us as truth.

Let us sense your presence, O God.
Come to us as love.

Come and let us worship, God.
We will rejoice in God, our Saviour.

Hymn "I Can Feel You Near Me God" MV #48

Prayer of Approach and Confession

**Still-speaking God,
we have gathered today for many reasons,
each with our own story.
May these reasons and stories
be immersed in your Sacred
Story, finding ourselves caught up
in the drama and beauty
of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry.
Through your Holy Spirit enable us to
move boldly into the future
and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught,
even as we, with Jesus, pray this ancient prayer...**

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.**

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,
those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

Hymn

“Praise Our Maker”

VU #316

All God’s Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Jesus has shared his gifts with his followers throughout all time and in every place. As we offer our gifts in thanksgiving, may our generosity reflect the generosity we meet in Jesus the Christ. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love. Bless us and the gifts we bring so that our lives may reflect the hope and renewal we have found in Christ, throughout our community and in the world you love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and

is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in God, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by God, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Anthem

Kirk Neville

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for calling us into a relationship with you, and setting us in the world you love. Through our prayers, we bring to you our doubts and fears, our joys and our concerns, and our deepest longings for your world.

Reconciling God,
We pray for our family and friends, those far away and those close by,

any who are estranged from us and those whom we depend upon daily. Where our relationships are strained, bring understanding and new possibility. Bless and protect relationships that are joyful and life-giving.

Guiding God,

We pray for public officials, politicians, and all who serve the public good day by day. Guide each one to uphold standards of good service above personal gain. Where they experience tension between their faith and their public roles, give them wisdom to make faithful decisions and courage when those decisions are unpopular.

Caring God,

We pray for the people we encounter every day, both those who are shining lights in our communities and those whose lights have yet to be discovered. Help us be respectful of every neighbour, and treat each person we meet with kindness.

Healing God,

We pray for those who are suffering from illness or chronic conditions, for those in grief or loneliness, and for any who feel frustrated or overwhelmed by what they face. Move in their lives with your healing grace and show them signs of your presence and compassion in life-giving ways.

Faithful God,

Your Spirit has worked in the world throughout all generations. We thank you that we belong to you in this generation. We pray for life-long believers and for those whose faith is new. May your church benefit from the wisdom of the experienced and the vibrancy of those beginning their journey. Help us work together in hope, so that our witness to your purposes and promises will invite others to discover life in you. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Love Is The Touch”

MV #89

Blessing

Now go back into the world from which you have come
and let love be true and freely given.

And may you be encouraged and blessed by the Advocate
whose love warms and surrounds you like the sun,
believing that God is with us always,
as close as our beating hearts. **Amen.**

Choral Benediction “Go Now In Peace”

Postlude