

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

**May 24, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Seventh 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**

**Birthdays & Special Occasions**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Quiet Preparation for Worship**

**Bible Presentation**

**\*Introit** "Holy Spirit Come to Us"

**\*Call to Worship**

Let us be joyful before God! Let us be jubilant this day.  
**We will sing praises to God's holy name.**

Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,  
**for God also protects orphans and widows, and gives the desolate a home.**

Sing to God, O nations of the earth;  
**we will sing praises to the Lord, our God!**

**Hymn**      “Come In, Come In and Sit Down”      VU #395

### **Prayer of Approach**

**As we worship together,**  
O God, may we live together.  
**As we live together,**  
**O God, may we witness together.**  
As we witness together,  
**O God, may we journey together.**  
As we journey together,  
**O God, may we meet together.**  
As we meet together,  
**O God, may we worship together,**  
**and may our worship be in you,**  
**O God, as you are in us.**

with Jesus we 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.**

**Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.

<sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.

<sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—  
his name is the LORD—  
be exultant before him.

<sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*

<sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;

<sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*

<sup>33</sup> O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel;  
and whose power is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> Awesome is God in his sanctuary,  
the God of Israel;  
he gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

**Hymn**

“To Show by Touch and Word”

VU # 427

**All God’s Children**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Offertory Invitation**

This Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, for God is good. We offer to God our thanks for such goodness in our tithes, PAR, and offering. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

**Offertory**

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

**Presentation of Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

Eternal and ever-present God, we offer you these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, enlisting all our gifts for the work of reconciliation Christ has given us to do in the world you love. Amen.

**Listening for the Word**

**Sacred Readings**

## **Acts 1:6-14**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” <sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him,

because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

### **John 17:1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### **Anthem**

## Sermon

### Pastoral Prayer

Gracious God, you desire unity for your people in the world, and unity between heaven and earth. We thank you for drawing us together as a community of faith, united in your love even in times when it is hard to gather. Equip us to witness to your promise of resurrection and new life as we serve you in the world. Hear us as we pray for your world.

God, we worry about the way things are going. Daily life has been uprooted by the pandemic, and also by war and environmental devastation. In the midst of all this, enable us to see your Spirit of healing and reconciliation leading people to peace with justice. Heal the earth and bring hope for renewed relationships. Help us learn from this anxious time how you invite us to live in balance with each other and with your whole creation.

God, we are concerned about all the divisions we see around us, many laid bare in responses to the pandemic. Communities are torn apart by suspicion and discrimination. People are judged severely by race and ethnic origin. In the midst of all this help us see your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to open hearts filled with prejudice, and ease the lives suffering its effects. Heal the hurt and bring hope for lasting unity.

This Sunday, we pray for the work of healing and reconciliation in Canada, between Indigenous Peoples and those who have settled in this land. Enable us to see your Spirit to guiding our leaders and build trust and respect among us all. Heal the lives limited by misunderstanding and bring hope for just resolutions to problems of long-standing. Increase a spirit of generosity as the nation begins to rebuild social structures damaged in the pandemic, so that the needs of Indigenous Peoples will not be overlooked.

God, we feel sadness for those whose lives are marked by isolation and fear, by grief or despair, effects deepened by the times of physical distancing. Enable us to see your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to draw the lonely into friendships, and as society begins to reopen, create a true sense of belonging for each one. Heal any burden of grief and bring hope through your eternal friendship.

God, we are hopeful for the church because it belongs to you. Enable us to see your Spirit guiding our witness in the world. Teach us how to share our experience of your love and invite others to join the journey toward healing and reconciliation. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**Hymn**

“We Are One”

VU #402

### **Blessing**

Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ’s love,  
with Christ’s name on your lips,  
the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,  
God’s love in your hearts,  
God’s beloved ones always in your sight, and  
God’s still speaking voice in your ear.       **Amen.**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Postlude**