

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

November 22, 2020

10:30 a.m.

25th 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

Call to Worship

Use your voice for praise. Sing and dance. Let joy have its way in you.

In God we live and move and have our being.

For we live and belong, we grow and thrive in God's great care.

In God we live and move and have our being.

Come in and give thanks, move with joy and celebrate the gift of life.

In God we live and move and have our being.

From the beginning of time God has poured out love and love will be with us forever.

In God we live and move and have our being.

So let the Spirit's movement stir us, shape us, and hold us as we celebrate in worship. Let us worship God.

Hymn

"O Worship the King"

VU #235

Prayer of Approach

**River of life and love,
we gather under the shower of your Spirit
to be refreshed by overflowing kindness.
Pour into us this day;
wisdom that welcomes all,
compassion that sees into the heart of community,
and love that embodies the ways of 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 100

VU #820-824

Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

VU #341 vv. 1,2,3

All God's Children

Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

VU #341 v. 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

God has blessed us in Christ and in creation with all that we need to thrive. Yet Jesus' story reminds us there are so many in this world who do not have what they need. What we offer to God today helps the Church reach out to touch lives in need and share the love of God in so many ways.

Presentation of Offering**Offertory Prayer**

Generous and gracious God, you envision a world where the hungry are fed and strangers are welcomed. We bring you our gifts to become part of your vision. Bless them and bless us, so that all our gifts bear fruit in Christ's name, and honour him as sovereign of our lives. Amen.

Listening for the Word**Sacred Reading****Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen

the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and

welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Jesus, you proclaimed God’s kingdom among us and within us.
In the power of the Spirit, your love is always at work,
bringing good out of evil and life out of death.
We thank you that your love never lets us go,
for you have known the good times and the hard times of this life
before us.

You came as one who was hungry and thirsty.

Where people live on the streets today, suffer from hunger, or beg for a meal:

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as a stranger in need of welcome.

Where people live lonely lives or feel like strangers in a strange land; where love is lacking and people face rejection for the colour of their skin or the language they speak:

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as one who was naked.

Where people lack enough clothing, shelter or life's basic resources; where people live without dignity, exposed to every kind of pain and hardship:

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as one who was broken.

Where people feel pain in body, mind or spirit; where someone grieves the loss of a beloved or the future they planned; in places where the pandemic has done its worst and desperation has moved in:

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as a Shepherd.

Where people are led astray or nations are ruled by corrupt or greedy leaders and there is no peace in the land:

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as one who was in prison.

Where people are treated unfairly, targeted or tortured;

where justice has failed and people are punished with cruelty:
Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

You came as one proclaiming the kingdom of God.
And so we lift up these prayers in your name, Lord Jesus,
knowing that your kingdom is drawing near
and that we meet you in the face of those who cry out to us.
Hasten the day when God will wipe away our tears and death will
be no more. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Congregational Covenant with Newly Elected Elders

Scripture

Let us hear the message of scripture. (1 Corinthians 12)

There are different ways of serving,
but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service,
but the same God gives ability to each of us.

The spirit's presence is shown in some way
in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body which has many parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body,
and each one is a part of it.

Statement of purpose

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude
that you have been called by God,
and chosen by the people of Central Queens United Church

for leadership in this community of faith.
This ministry is a blessing, and an honour, and a responsibility.
It recognizes your special gifts
and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf.
We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God,
and to all God's people.

As you come to assume the duties of your office,
let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

(Newly elected Elders stand)

As a disciple of Jesus Christ,
will you continue to live out your faith
with praise and Thanksgiving?
Will you carry out your responsibilities in this congregation
with integrity and joy?
I will, God being my helper.

(Congregation stands)

Will you, the members of Central Queens United Church
honour the leadership of these people?
Will you assist them through daily prayer,
generous support, and personal example,
so that, together, we may be a faithful Church of Jesus
Christ?

We will, God being our helper.

(All are seated)

Prayer

Loving God, you have called these folk to serve you.
Send your Holy Spirit up on them and upon us all
that we may keep the promises we have made this day.
Help these Elders fulfill their responsibilities.

May their leadership help us all
to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.

Declaration

Name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and
affirm you in the ministry as Church Elder.

Hymn “When I Needed a Neighbour” VU #600

Blessing

From this sacred time and space we go in the noble name of
Compassion, flowing forth in the Spirit of Hope, and held steadily
by the Author of Love.

Friends, our service of worship is now complete. Our service to
the world has begun yet again.

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