

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

October 25, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Twenty first 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

You, O God, have been our dwelling place,
when we felt lost in the world.

You, O God, have been our spiritual home,
when we felt all alone.

You, O God, have been our hiding place,
when we were afraid.

You, O God, have been our Shepherd looking for a lost sheep,
when our hearts were seeking meaning.

You, O God, have been a faithful God in all generations,
when we felt insecure about our faith.

Let us worship God with all our hearts and minds.

Praise be to God.

Hymn

“Let All Things Now Living”

VU #242

Prayer of Approach

Gracious and loving God, you embrace us in the morning with your steadfast love so that we may rejoice and be glad all day long. May we also express your love, your beauty, and creativity as we give expression to them in our work, service, and play. May others see you and know you through our words and actions. May we be caring witnesses to your vast, mysterious, loving, and creative presence in our world.

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 90:1-6, 13-17

VU #805-806

Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

VU #343 vv. 1&2

All God's Children

Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

VU #343 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

God has been our refuge from one generation to another. God has cared for us from the beginning of time. All creation testifies to the glory of God. So may we do the same, with all that we have and are. Let us make an offering to God, as a testimony to God's goodness. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

May our offerings bring joy to us as we give peace to the afflicted, caring to the neglected, and hope to the oppressed. Bless the work of our hands, the creativity of our souls, and the generosity of our hearts that are inherent in this, our offerings. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the Plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, the headland of Pisgah which faces Jericho, and YHWH showed him all the land ---- Gilead as far as Dan, all of the Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negev, and the stretch of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palms, and as far as Zoar. Then YHWH said to Moses, "This is the land I swore to Sarah and Abraham, to Rebecca and Isaac, to Leah, Rachel, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I have let you feast your eyes upon it, but you will not cross over."

So there in the land of Moab, Moses the servant of God died as YHWH decreed, and he was buried in the Valley opposite Beth Peor in the land of Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact burial place. Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was strong and he was still quite vigorous. For 30 days the Israelites wept for Moses in the Plains of Moab, until they had completed the period of grief and mourning.

Now Joshua ben-nun, was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. And the Israelites gave him their obedience, carrying out the order God had given to Moses.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom YHWH knew face to face. There is no equal to all the signs and wonders YHWH our God caused Moses to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all of Pharaoh's officials and the whole land. How mighty the hand and how terrifying the displays of power that Moses wielded in the sight of all Israel!

Matthew 22:34-36

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which commandment of the law is greater?" Jesus answered: "You must love the most high God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind. That is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law is based and the Prophets as well.

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Faithful God and Holy Friend,

We do not have enough words to thank you for all you have given us and the love you share with us in Christ Jesus.

In the silence of this time, help us review the week just past, remembering the ways we encountered you—in the beauty of creation, the support of friends, the wisdom of books, the joy of music, the energy of exercise, through study and prayer.

(A time of silence is kept.)

God of comfort and challenge,
we are grateful for your presence in these uncertain times at home, at work
and at school. We give you thanks for your attention to the small details
and the large responsibilities we face.

Be with us as the months of pandemic continue. Give us patience to keep
each other safe and make us attentive to the needs of those around us.
In silence we name before you those finding these days especially difficult.

(A time of silence is kept.)

God of persistence and inspiration,
we remember before you the many who struggle to recognize your
presence or fail to hear your voice amid all the competing voices in our
world. We pray for those feeling depressed or anxious, those facing grief
and loneliness, and those who are worried about their health or their
security.

(A time of silence is kept.)

Do not forget these people even if they forget you. Comfort them and fill
them with peace.

God of justice and leadership,
We pray for our country and all other nations facing immense challenges
with COVID-19. Guide decision makers and keep the hearts of those with
resources open to those who do not have enough.

We pray for places where justice is lacking, where violence threatens, or
leaders are untrustworthy. Strengthen voices of wisdom and acts of
courageous compassion to tend the needs of people most at risk.

God of grace and guidance,
You call us to be your hands and feet, your voice and comfort in the world,
following the example of Jesus. Equip us to respond to the needs around us
in his name and make us bold to get started right here and right now.
Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Come Touch our Hearts”

MV #12

Blessing

Go into the world and be a caring witness.

May your witness bring joy.

May the joy inspire faith.

May the faiths foster greater love.

May the love encourage caring witness. Amen.

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