

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

September 27, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Seventh 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

When the people of Israel were thirsty,
God provided water in the wilderness.

Praise God for the water of life.

When people were lost without direction,
Jesus came to show the way.

Praise God for the water of life.

When we cry out in need, God listens to us, and responds.

Praise God for the water of life.

Come, let us worship God!

Hymn “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom” MV #10

Prayer of Approach

As Jesus emptied himself to be one with your will, we too seek such a deep still point in our souls, O God. May we learn to let go of all distractions that hinder us from being one with you. As we see ourselves surrounded by the truth of your presence, may we see ourselves as you saw us when you created us in your image. May this worship remind us of who we are and what you call us to be as we celebrate our faith, as we affirm the joy of being in your presence and as we offer all our praise and humble devotion.

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 78:1-4, 12-16

VU # 792 Parts One and Two

Hymn

“Your Love is Amazing”

MV #26

All God’s Children

Hymn

“Your Love is Amazing”

MV #26

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

God provides us with more than we can ever imagine. Let us show our thanks and give an offering to God. We give as we are able. We give as we are called.

Offertory

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

Creator God, you nurture us with the abundance of your creation. You have blessed us with talents and gifts that enable us to celebrate life. For all these, we are truly thankful, O God. Out of gratitude, we offer what we have already given in full. May our offerings as, well as our heart and soul, express your loving kindness in the ministry of Central Queens. Bless our offerings, O God of love and mystery, that our sisters and brothers in our community and around the world may know your unconditional love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Reading

Exodus 17:1-17

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." And Moses built an altar and called it, The LORD is my banner. He said, "A hand upon the banner of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Come Touch Our Hearts”

MV # 12

Blessing

Go from this place to live under God's humble care.
Seek simple joys.
Love one another unconditionally.
Share kindness.
Follow the way of the Christ.
And take with you the quiet assurance that God's Spirit
will always be with you this day and forevermore.
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