

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

April 25, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Camping Sunday

Fourth Sunday 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.

Worship begins with a person dressed in camping clothing wondering into worship. There is excited noise in the back of the sanctuary as s/he arrives, saying good bye to the humans that dropped her/him off at Camp Abby! The person wanders into the sanctuary, pretty pumped to be back at camp. There is the greeting of familiar friends as they arrive. S/he makes way to the front of the church where there is a fire burning. Once settled, there is a greeting.

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting Camp fire

Quiet Preparation for Worship

***Introit “Fire’s Burning”**

Fire’s burning, fire’s burning
Draw nearer, draw nearer
In the glowing, in the glowing
Come sing and be merry

***Call to Worship**

At some camps, a bell rings to signal the beginning.
Let’s begin Camping Sunday the same way.

Bell Rings

Left Side: The bell is ringing.

Right Side: We gather for instruction.

Left Side: Let’s go to the warmth of the campfire.

Right Side: Can we bring s’mores?

**Left Side: Of course! We will all share the warmth of
God’s love!**

Right Side: Let’s get started!

***Hymn “It Only Takes a Spark”**

VU #289

Camp fire chat

Prayer of Approach

Creator God, the spark has kindled a fire.

We gather for its warmth and light.

Your love is the warmth that fills our hearts.

Your love lights the way.

First, we experience the warmth and light of your love,
and then we pass it on.

Pass it on.

With Jesus, we share in the 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.**

Camp fire chat

Hymn

"Kum Ba Yah"

Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

Someone needs You, Lord, come by here.
Someone needs You, Lord, come by here.
Someone needs You, Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.

Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

Prayer of Confession:

**Dear God, we love your creation,
yet sometimes refuse to care enough for it.
We love our neighbours as you have taught us,
yet sometimes we hurt them or refuse to allow our differences
to transform us.
Your love for us surrounds us in every way,
yet sometimes we fail to acknowledge it.
Out of your timeless greatness, dear God,
please keep loving and forgiving us.
Guide us to do, say, and think according to your will.
Guide us to live in respectful relationship with creation.
And when there are temptations or other examples to follow
that lead us away from you,
we ask that you set us aright, yet again.
Our trust in you is complete.
Amen.**

Assurance of God's Blessing:

God is the beginning, and through God all things have come into being. God is life and that life brings abundant freedom and live-giving peace for all people. God's love shines in the most difficult times, and nothing can separate us from that love.

Sung Response:

"Halle Halle Halle"

VU #958

God's Children / Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

Scripture: John 15:1–8

"I am the true Vine, and my Father is the Gardener. He lops off every branch that doesn't produce. And he prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops. He has already tended you by pruning you back for greater strength and usefulness by means of the commands I gave you. Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me.

"Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing. If anyone separates from me, he is thrown away like a useless branch, withers, and is gathered into a pile with all the others and burned. But if you stay in me and obey my commands, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce bountiful harvests. This brings great glory to my Father.

Hymn "What Does the Lord Require of You" VU #701

Exploring God's Wonderful World

Invitation to Offering

As we gather, we recognize that we are truly blessed; to live in God's wondrous Creation, to have family and friends and neighbours that we can depend upon. As God has blessed us we, in turn, share a portion of that blessing with others, our time, talent, and tithes, in support of the work of God's church and our camping mission. The offering will now be received.

Offertory Prayer:

**Loving God,
accept the gifts of our time, talent,
and tithes for the work of your church,
in this community and beyond.
We share what we have so that the warmth and light of your
love will spread to everyone,
and we shout from the mountaintops: *Pass it on.*
Amen.**

Prayer for Others

God of love, we can learn a lot from the cooperation and fun of camp. In life, as at camp, learning and challenges become stepping stones to our growing maturity. Thank you for surrounding all of us with love, guidance and forgiveness.

We turn away from you sometimes, and doubt you or stop seeking to understand your terms, as opposed to our terms. So today, dear God, our prayers for the people include ourselves and others like us who need reminders about your commitment to us.

Help us to take on a mantle of caring for all life—no matter what our differences are—so that we can make a real difference in the world. There are so many struggling for food or peace, for safety, or for the freedom to worship. We sometimes feel so helpless. Guide us to ways in which we can help those in need; open us to receive your teachings. Help us *let our little lights shine* by showing love to all.

Help us to accept changes in our understanding of your word that encourage deeper thinking, shifts in perspectives and understanding, which can all lead us to a stronger faith. Bless

those who are struggling with physical or mental illness, those grieving losses of any kind, and those who are attempting to find honesty in relationships in social, family or work situations. God, help those who are suffering find strength in your love and feel renewed in their faith.

Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide" MV #145

Blessing

Take the warmth and light represented by this fire into your lives.
Take the warmth and light of God's love into your lives.
May the fun and faith of church camps, reside in your minds and hearts.
And...remember to pass it on.

Sung Benediction "Go Now In Peace" VU #964

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.