

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

December 5, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent -- Peace

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

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Prepare the Way of the Lord" VU #10

***Call to Worship**

We gather, longing for gentleness among all:

peace is the home we seek.

We gather, longing for healing weather has been harmed:

peace is the home we seek.

We gather, longing for generosity to inform all actions:

peace is the home we seek.

We gather, longing for peace in all parts of life:
God is the home we seek.

Advent Candle Lighting -- Peace

Music Video

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. As Christians, we light the Advent wreath to remind us that we wait for Christ's light to be born into the world. The wreath is in the shape of a circle to remind us that God's love for us is never-ending. Today we are lighting the candle of peace. We remember that Jesus brings the promise of peace: peace in our hearts, peace between family and friends, peace between nations, peace between human beings and all of creation.

Peace Candle is Lit

Let us quiet our hearts and minds. Close your eyes, or focus on the candle....

Notice your breathing...be aware of your breath as it enters and leaves your body....

As you breathe in, say to yourself, "Jesus."

As you breathe out, say, "Send your peace."

Silence

Jesus, help your light to shine in us as peace.

***Hymn** (*unannounced*)

"Hope Is a Star"

VU #7 vv. 1 and 2

Prayer of Approach

**For waiting and dreaming,
searching and living,
thank you, God!
For days past
and days to come,
thank you, God!
For Jesus, the Christ,
alive in our lives,
thank you, God!
For all we do,
and all you do with us,
we give you thanks, O God!**

written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, United Church Moderator.

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.**

Responsive Luke 1:68–79

VU #900

***Hymn** “Never Ending Joy”

MV #40 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

***Hymn** “Never Ending Joy”

MV #40 v. 3

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Here is flame and breath and spirit.

Here is friend and hope and peace.

Yet sin is here, prickly as holly.

Injustice, cruelty, neglect all round, as cold as ice.

For frozen hearts with Advent flame, O God,

breathe new life into lives of pain.

Silence

Assurance of God’s Love

In the spirit love abounds
that you may be pure and blameless
for the day of Christ.

**Fill us with zeal for doing what is right,
to the glory of God.**

Written by the Rev. Robin Wardlaw

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

We make our offering today as a sign of our commitment to the
reign of Christ among us, trusting that our gifts will accomplish

more than we might ever imagine, because God will bless them—
and us.

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

VU #55 v. 4

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**We may never see your reign of peace and
justice fulfilled, but we hold it in our hearts all the same.
Bless the gifts of time and talent, money and faith
that we offer on this day. May they do your work
for the whole world. Amen.**

Written by the Rev. Kae Crawford

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Malachi 3:1–4

I am sending my messenger to prepare the way for me; the One you seek will suddenly come to the temple, the messenger of the covenant whom you long for will come, says YHWH Omnipotent. But who can endure the day of that coming? Who can stand firm when that One appears? That day will be like a smelter's fire, launderer's soap. The One will preside as refiner and purifier, purifying the children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver --- then they will once again make offerings to YHWH in righteousness. Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to YHWH as they were in former days in years long past.

Luke 3:1–6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest.
Enter our lives today with your blessing.
We are lonely for you and the peace you bring.
Draw near to us in friendship and faithfulness,
so that in this season of celebration, we may know you are near,
and be filled with gratitude, even in the face of challenge and
uncertainty.

Christ Jesus, coming among us,
Bring us peace.

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guide.
Show us the way to wisdom and gratitude
in the face of conspiracy theories and distrust.
We thank you for the kindness we know
in friends and good neighbours, in warm houses and warm smiles.
We pray for those who have lost their way in life
and feel like there is no place to turn.
Equip us to reach out to those who need your embrace and ours.
Christ Jesus, coming among us,
Bring us peace.

Come, Christ Jesus, be our hope.
Touch us with your healing and grace; in every way we need these gifts.
We remember before you those we know and those known to you
alone who are living with loss or illness this season,
those who face depression or discouragement,
all who are worried about the impact of the pandemic,
and any who will find it hard to be merry this year.

silence

Shine the light of your comfort into their lives and ours.
Christ Jesus, coming among us,
Bring us peace.

Come, Christ Jesus, and rule in our lives.
Claim your rightful place in our hearts.
This world is struggling for the justice and mercy you bring.
We remember before you places marked by violence and upheaval,
and the devastating impacts of the climate crisis.

silence

Draw near to all leaders and citizens working for peace and justice.
Encourage honourable action and co-operation
in confronting global challenges and local needs.
Give hope to people under oppression
and those who live with fear or hunger day by day.
Hasten the day when the world's peoples will live as neighbours,
reconciled in your truth and freedom.
Christ Jesus, coming among us,
Bring us peace.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn**

All the Earth is Waiting

VU #5

***Blessing**

**May you know God's peace in words and ways of comfort.
May you show God's peace in words and ways of comfort.
May God's peace and hope shine in all the world through us.
Amen**

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**