

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

**February 7, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**

**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**

As we enter into this sacred place,  
put away the pressures of the world that ask us  
to perform,  
to take on masks,  
to put on a brave front.  
Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect.  
This is a community of compassion and welcome.  
A place where we can experience unconditional love  
of God and each other. Welcome in the name of the  
one who IS unconditional love!

**Birthdays & Special Occasions**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Once there was someone 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?" He replied, "I am the Light."

## Quiet Preparation for Worship

### Bible Presentation

**\*Introit**            "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"            MV #18 X3

### \*Call to Worship

God has invited us to come.  
**So we gather.**

God has spoken to the world.  
**So we listen.**

God has given us glimpses of grace and mercy.  
**So we wait and watch, longing for healing, eager for hope.**

God has been faithful to all generations.  
**So we trust. And so we worship God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

**\*Hymn**            "Let My Spirit Always Sing"            MV #83

## Prayer of Approach

God you see us under the fig tree, or brewing coffee in the kitchen, or relaxing on the couch,  
**and you recognize us for who we are.**

We wonder what you are up to, where you might be found,  
**and you invite us to come and see.**

In this time of worship,  
**move in our hearts and souls,  
give us the curiosity and the courage to come and see,  
and then to share what we have seen and heard.**

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.**

**Psalm 147**

VU # 868 Part One

**\*Hymn** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love" VU #574 vv. 1, 2

### **All God's Children**

**\*Hymn** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love" VU #574 vv. 3, 4

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

## **Offertory Invitation**

Jesus' ministry brought healing and hope to so many people. Our offering supports ministries of healing and hope here and around the world. Know that your gift matters and give as God has blessed you. We give as we are called; we give as we are able.

**Offertory**            "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"            VU #537

### **\*Presentation of Offering**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Generous and loving God, we bring our offering to you, trusting that you will bless our gifts and use them in ways we cannot even imagine. Jesus touched so many lives in so many different ways. We ask that these gifts will touch many lives, too, with your healing and hope in these difficult days. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Readings**

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

## Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

### **Anthem**

### **Sermon**

### **Responding to the Word**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Holy and loving God,

we thank you for the story of Christ's life among us,  
a pattern for the way we live.

We give you thanks for moments of quiet and contemplation that  
restore us, and help us perceive your Spirit at work in the world  
and in our own lives.

Teach us to trust in your strength,  
so that we can live with confidence and courage  
even in the midst of stress and anxiety.  
These days of pandemic are still difficult  
and we need to know you are near in our lonely times.  
Meet us in that place of deep stillness within us all.

In the quiet of this moment we hand over to you  
all those things stirring within us today:

Anything that has been distracting or hurtful...

*(Hold a silence)*

Anything that makes us worry or brings sleepless nights...

*(Hold a silence)*

Our hopes and dreams for the future...

*(Hold a silence)*

and for the lives of those we love...

*(Hold a silence)*

We hold before you the needs and hopes of those we know who  
need your presence, especially remembering those facing grief  
and loss...

*(Hold a silence)*

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of our world...

*(Hold a silence)*

We pray that peace and prosperity will begin to flourish in places facing war, famine, and disaster, and we pray for the work of Presbyterian World Service & Development serving in these situations...

*(Hold a silence)*

We pray that those who manage the world economy find honest, just and generous ways to respond to the challenges caused by the pandemic...

*(Hold a silence)*

We pray that the dignity of each creature be honoured and the earth itself be treasured...

*(Hold a silence)*

May peace with justice thrive in the world you love.

**\*Hymn**

“We Are Pilgrims”

VU #595

**\*Blessing**

Go and share!

Share the Good News about what God is doing in the world.

Share the exciting news the God is afoot, that the world is being changed.

Share the promise that God sees us where we are and welcomes us into the circle.

**We have come to see; now we go to share the love of God with the world around us.**

And you are not alone. The Three-in-One: Parent, Child and Holy

Spirit is with you always.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Choral Benediction**

“Dance with the Spirit”

MV #156

**Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.