

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

**January 10, 2020**

**10:30 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Epiphany**

**The Baptism of Jesus**

**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

### Quiet Preparation for Worship

### Bible Presentation

\*Introit "Come All You People" MV #2 X3

### \*Call to Worship

God said, "Let there be light."

**And there was light.**

God said, "Let there be a dome to separate the waters!"

**And there was sky.**

God said, "Let there be land and earth and vegetation!"

**And there was all manner of trees and fruits.**

Come and worship the God who speaks the words of creation.

**We come -**

**to receive those creative words**

**and to be made new! <sup>1</sup>**

\*Hymn "Let There Be Light" VU #679

### Prayer of Approach

Water of life, present at the creation of the universe.

**Water of life, present at our birth.**

Water of life, present at the baptism of Jesus.

**Water of life, present at our own baptisms.**

We remember that at these times, not only was there water, but also the voice of God was experienced and felt speaking to us.

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Kate Crawford. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020-2021, page 43. Used with permission.

**God, Water of Life, we come this morning to be filled with your living water and to listen for your voice. <sup>2</sup>**

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 29**

VU #756

**\*Hymn**

**"Jesus' Hands were Kind Hands"**

VU # 570

**All God's Children**

**\*Hymn**

**"Jesus' Hand were Kind Hands"**

VU # 570

**Invitation to Confession**

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Fern Bibbard. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020-2021, page 43. Used with permission.

## **Prayer of Confession**

The Holy Voice is over the waters  
**but when the waters are rough  
our fear can beat a rhythm louder  
then the pulsating of the Spirit.**

The Holy Voice is powerful  
**but voices of desire, comfort, success and power  
call to us seductively and persuasively,  
and we turn from God.**

The Holy Voice flashes forth flames of fire,  
**to light our path, and warm our hearts,  
but there are times when we  
prefer the shadows,  
when we prefer to linger in the cold of night.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

VU #945

## **Assurance of God's Love**

The Holy Voice shakes the wilderness,  
and calls to us,  
coaxing us out of fear  
driving idols away, guiding us home.

**Halle, Halle, Halle**

VU #958

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

## **Offertory Invitation**

**Offertory**

**"What Can I Do?"**

**MV #191**

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**We have heard the holy voice called to us,  
as God called to Jesus.**

**We respond as we are able,  
and offer these gifts and ourselves as we speak and act your  
message of love into the world. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Readings**

#### **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

#### **Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate

locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

### **Responding to the Word**

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

### **Introduction**

Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good.

Jesus, baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us.

Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized and all others who come seeking. We follow Jesus with our Baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. We join Jesus in love and service.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel and hear again the vows of Baptism.

## **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

**I do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

**I do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

**I do**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**I do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows,  
remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance  
and welcome into the care of Christ's church  
where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

## **Prayer**

**O God, we rejoice in your love, given and received.  
We thank you that you claim us,  
that you wash us, strengthen us and guide us,  
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.  
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.  
Establish us to be places of refreshment.  
Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, we  
may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that  
our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

**"Spirit God, Be Our Breath"**

**MV #150**

**\*Blessing**

With this water  
we recall our baptism  
into the body of Christ.

With the story of Jesus' baptism,  
and the voice of God calling him beloved,  
we know ourselves to be called by God  
to live out our faith in Christ.

Go and celebrate your baptism;  
celebrate that you are beloved,  
and share the good news with others  
that they are God's beloved, too. Amen.

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.