

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

**June 6, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Second 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.**

**The Community Gathers**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**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**

**"Spirit of the Living God"**

**VU #376**

## **\*Call to Worship**

Listen! Too many sounds, too many voices, too many people shouting in our ears.

### **To whom do we listen?**

We listen to the television pundits, thinking they will tell us what we need to know.

### **But do we listen to God?**

We listen to advertisements, thinking they will give us what we need.

### **But do we listen to God?**

We listen to others' judgments, thinking they will show us the way.

### **But do we listen to God?**

Listen! To the One who made us, the One who gives us life, the One who shows us the way. Listen, for God is speaking, here in this time and place, here in our worship. Come, let us worship God.

## **\*Hymn**

“Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

VU #299

## **Prayer of Approach**

**God who speaks, we want to hear you. We yearn to listen to you above all the noises of our lives. Guide us in this time of worship to hear your voice. Speak to us in the songs, in the word, in the laughter of the children and in the chatting with new and old friends. Speak to us, God, for your children are listening. Amen.**

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.**

## **Hymn**

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

## **Hymn**

### **Listening for God's Word**

#### **Sacred Word**

##### **1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20**

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in

all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;... He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

### **Psalm 138**

VU #860

### **Mark 3:20-35**

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that

kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to God's Word**

## **Offertory Invitation**

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

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**As Samuel listened to God, we strive to listen to God in our everyday lives. We bring our gifts, both tangible and intangible, to this table and to this church. May God bless the gifts, and may we grow stronger as we move forward in harmony as a community -- the body of Christ. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of communion and community,  
we give you thanks for our life together in Christ,  
and the work of the Spirit that draws us closer to you and to each other.  
We pray for the life of our denomination.  
Speak through your Spirit to open minds and hearts to your leading.  
May the grace of Jesus sustain us in communion and community, even  
when we differ over decisions and directions.

God of compassion and concern,  
thank you for all the ministries the United Church undertake together  
in Canada and in many places throughout the world.  
Thank you for lessons learned and hope inspired  
by all the partners we have worked with,  
over this difficult year and throughout many years and many different  
cultures. Open all our hearts to support the ministries  
with generous giving and ongoing prayer,  
so that lives will be healed, transformed and strengthened  
according to your compassion and concern.

God of our hearts and our hopes,  
We pray for those you have given us to love.  
Hear us as we place their needs and hopes before you in this silence.  
*(silence)*

We pray for those who serve our nation as leaders in business, politics, health care and education. Grant them wisdom in this challenging time, so that their choices consider the needs of the most vulnerable whom we name before you in silence.

*(silence)*

We pray for those who face uncertainty, unrest and threat from violence day by day. In this moment of silence, we bring before you people in our own community who know upheaval because of the pandemic, and those in places around the world where injustice is unrelenting.

*(silence)*

We pray for our nation and First Nations people as we grapple with the death of 215 aboriginal children found at a Residential School. Words are too small to express the pain, suffering and loss.

*(Silence)*

God of the earth and all its fullness,  
In this season of planting and growing, of nesting and nurturing,  
we pray for the environment and all the creatures it supports.  
Protect species and habitats at risk, and awaken us to better stewardship in the garden you have entrusted to us. Amen.

**\*Hymn**                      “In Loving Partnership We Come”                      VU #603

**\*Blessing**

Listen and hear the word of God, this day, in this place, and in all the places of the world. Remember that when we neglect to listen to each other, God will still listen to us. Go now with open ears, and open heart and open spirit. Amen.

**Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*Please rise as you are able.