

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

March 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

In Jesus' name, welcome!

First-time participant or one who's been here many days;
child or elder or somewhere in-between;
stewards, caretakers, disciples of Jesus, children of God—
neighbours all, loved and loving.

Welcome. Welcome in Christ's name!

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 "Sing It Hosanna"

*Call to Worship

Come. Come seeking words.

Come to let your tongue give praise.

Come. Come to find your voice.

Come to hear the response.

Come. Come to open your ears.

Come to listen.

Come. Come to be healed by the silence.

Come to stand together.

Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.

Come to find God.

Come. Come be enveloped in Mystery --- come and worship!

*Hymn "He Came Riding on a Donkey" VU #124

Prayer of Approach

Come. Come O Holy One.

Come through the streets.

Come into the house.

Come to find a space beside us at the table.

Come to challenge our answers about -

why tragedy comes,

why poverty increases,

why we are afraid.

Come O Holy One.

Speak to us in the silence -

**with wisdom greater than ours,
with love deeper than ours,
with change wider than ours.**

Shared Silence

Come O Holy One.
Fill in these stories
with your wisdom,
with your love,
with your change,
so that we might rely on your answers.
Here and now.

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 31:9–16 *My times are in your hands, O God* VU#758 Parts 2 & 3

Prayer of Confession

O Holy One,
we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.
We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at
the table. We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.
We have insisted upon our own answers.
We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things
happen, about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels
so broken. We have assured ourselves that this is the way that
things must be, but this life is in your hands.
Our lives are in your hands.

**O Holy One, speak to us.
Fill our silences.
Comfort us with your love
so that we may find your understanding.
Trust us to find your answers
when we finally tire from our own.
Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Kyrie

Assurance of God's love

God opens our ears.
God speaks when we are silent.
God approaches us
in the parade and at table
in our denial and our praise
to be our help.
Now and always. Amen.

Hymn “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” MV #115

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

When we have no words,
when we cannot find our voice,
God approaches.
We reach out to God.
Let us give our gifts.
We give as we are able,
we give as we are called.

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

*Presentation of Offering

*Offertory Prayer

**O Holy One,
Bless these gifts
so that the world may know your love
even when we are silent. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Isaiah 50:4–9a *The servant, I gave my back to those who struck me.*

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2:5–11 *Let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Anthem

Sermon *Finding Your Voice*

Hymn

Responding to the Word

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Faith

Minister

By the action of Baptism, we are marked as children of God and members of the body of Christ. By the symbol of water, which brought forth life at creation and cleansed the earth in the flood; by the power of God’s Spirit, we are reminded that we are cleansed and nurtured by the never-failing stream, welling up to eternal life. In the act of Confirmation, those baptized come before the community to renew the covenant of baptism. By this act, folk profess their faith in God, revealed in Jesus and active through the Spirit, and commit themselves to the worship and work of the body of Christ.

Church Representative

We have inquired of these persons and found that they desire to reaffirm their Baptismal Vows in Christ’s Church and in this community

of faith, which we know as Central Queens. I present these persons to you that they may do that now:

Finn McCourt, Crosby Andrews, and Gabriel Taweel

***Questions of those Affirming their Baptismal Vows**

Minister

Beloved children of God, have no fear. God, who knew you before you were born and who was active in your baptism, is present with you now. God will bless and strengthen you anew by the Spirit, so that you may increase in knowledge of God and be empowered to do God's will in the world.

I ask you therefore, before God and this faith community:
Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus the Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus the Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your sisters and brothers in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment *Congregation Stands*

Let us pledge to Finn, Crosby, and Gabriel our continued support and care.

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you.
With God's help, we will live our baptism as a loving community in
Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in
prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

Affirmation of our faith

VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

The act of Reaffirming Baptismal Faith

Candidate kneels

Minister

By the gift of your Spirit, O God, strengthen N., that he/she may be true to you all his/her life. **Amen.**

Live in the world in the power of God that you may act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bible

N., receive this Bible and with your sisters and brothers in Christ, continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

Prayer for the Candidates

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on these young people who today affirmed their baptismal vows. Watch over them and guide them as they continue to grow in faith. Remind us of the promises of your own baptism and renew our trust in you. Strengthen us to do your will, and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Go Forth for God"

VU #418

***Blessing**

Go into the world to find your voice.

Listening to what God will do.

Go into the world to find each other.

Reaching out when we need support.

Go into the world to be amazed.

Knowing that God is always with us.

Choral Benediction “Don't Be Afraid”

MV #90

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.