

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

March 7, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

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** "Come All You People" MV #2 X2

***Call to Worship**

It is in God that we live, and move, and have our being.
And so, in every moment of every day,
we dance with God, and God dances with all creation.
We don't often notice that we're dancing,
but sometimes, every once in a while,
God's music and movement breaks through,
and we *know!*
When we gather together, as community of faith,
we gather to help one another become open
to the presence of God;
we gather to help one another be intentional
in that relationship;
we gather to help one another,
and in helping one another,
we worship God.

***Hymn** "Be Thou My Vision" VU #642

Prayer of Approach

This is a movement prayer, so I would invite you to repeat my actions as you are able.

(Touching head)

Creator, touch our minds—

(Touching head)

that we may worship with understanding.

(Touching above eyes)

Christ, touch our eyes -

(Touching above eyes)

that we may recognise each other.

(Touching lips)

Holy Spirit, touch our voices—

(Touching lips)

that our words would always praise you.

(Touching chest, above heart)

Love Divine, touch our hearts—

(Touching chest, above heart)

that your compassion would overflow.

(Placing one hand on top of the other, palms up)

God of all, touch our hands—

(Placing one hand on top of the other, palms up)

**that all we touch would be blessed,
that all we touch would be transformed,
that all we touch would be made new,
by your love.**

(Touching head, above eyes, lips, heart, and hands)

With all that we are—

(Touching head, above eyes, lips, heart, and hands)

we worship you.

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 19

VU #740

Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be"

VU #506 vv. 1,2,3

All God's Children

Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be"

VU #506 vv. 4,5

Prayer of Confession

**In this season of Lent, O God, we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life you desire of us.
We take time to focus on whatever we do
that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.
And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to
Holy Love.**

Moment of Silence

Kyrie

Assurance of God's love

The God of who brought the Israelites out of Egypt,
is the power that frees us from our sin.
Live in the grace of God's love
as you walk in the way of Jesus
and surely you shall find mercy at the end of that road. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year,
as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.
On that journey he met many people.
In that meeting, they were blessed.
When he was with them,
he was careful to listen
to the people and to the Creator.
When he was with them,
he would pray, sometimes with words,
sometimes with tears.
When he was with them,
he would share what he had—
his teachings, his table, his love.
Let us worship God
by listening, by praying, and by sharing!

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

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**The bills and the coins
and the numbers in the bank
are symbols of the work of our hands,
loving God.
We offer them to you,
that they would be signs and symbols
of our worship as they go out into the world.
May they be used in ways
that bring healing and wholeness
to all creation.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing

steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple,

both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Loving God,
we thank you for the world you created
and the opportunities we have to enjoy its beauty and its life sustaining
promise. When we find occasions to breathe in fresh air and exercise
outdoors this winter, remind us of our partnership with you to care for
creation. As spring comes closer and the sun shines longer each day,
reawaken our hope in your promise of new life to sustain us as the weeks
of the pandemic stretch on.

Ever present God, we thank you for walking with us through days of
uncertainty as well as times of pleasure and satisfaction.
In times of risk and stress, you provide a still point of calm.
In times of challenge, you are the source of courage and confidence for us.

Thank you for hearing us when we pray,
and for the wisdom and encouragement we receive from you.

This day we pray for those who are struggling with the isolation and frustration the pandemic means for so many. Bring them peace and patience with your love.

We pray for churches whose common life has been changed so much by months of distancing. Keep us strong in faith and fellowship, so that we may serve as agents of healing and hope in our communities.

We pray for our nation and the nations of this world. May leaders confront the challenges of this time with courage, wisdom and compassion. Guide citizens to discern the difference between conspiracy theories and truth telling.

We pray for innocent victims of violence around the world. Work through advocates for peace with justice to bring change where it is needed, and daily bread to those whose lives and livelihoods have been disrupted.

And we pray for all those who are enduring pain and illness, those who are facing grief and loss, and those who work on the front lines in our community, in health care, education, retail, emergency and public service. So many are exhausted by these months of pandemic. Be their comfort and encouragement day by day. Amen.

***Hymn**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

VU #120

***Blessing**

This is a movement prayer, so I would invite you to repeat my actions as you are able.

(Touching head)

Creator, touch our minds—

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that we may worship with understanding.

(Touching above eyes)

Christ, touch our eyes -

(Touching above eyes)

that we may recognise each other.

(Touching lips)

Holy Spirit, touch our voices—

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(Touching head, above eyes, lips, heart, and hands)

With all that we are—

(Touching head, above eyes, lips, heart, and hands)

we worship you.

Choral Benediction “Don't Be Afraid”

MV #90

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.