

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

November 7, 2021

Remembrance Sunday

10:30 a.m.

24th Sunday 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.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and members of the Regional Police forces who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service to Canada before self. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them. And so, on this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember them.

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 is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

*Introit "Gather Us In" MV #7 (repeat)

*Call to Worship

From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.

In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty, **we remember that we are not alone.**

We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

Let us worship God together!

*Hymn "For the Healing of the Nations" VU #678

Prayer of Approach

On this day of memory we gather to sing and to pray,
we remember the past and look to the future.

On this day when the guns once fell silent,
we come before you God, seeking your peace.

On this day of hope in the face of terror,
we come before you God, praying with all our hearts -
God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

Open our eyes and the eyes of the nations
to find a different path through the disagreements
of life in this world.

In this time of story, song, and prayer,
may we be re-committed to being a people of peace, true peace.

May we catch a vision of how the world could live together.

And so we echo the old prayers,
make us channels of your peace.

Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us!

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.**

Act of Remembrance

***Hymn**

“O Canada”

VU #524

Roll Call of Those Who Died in the Wars: LS Patrick Davis

Boer War (1899-1902)

World War I (1914-1918)

World War II (1939-1945)

Korean War (1950 – 1953)

Placing of the Wreath

**The Response: They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning, we will remember them.**

The Last Post

Two minutes of Silence

Reveille

***God Save the Queen**

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say “Lest we forget.” Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” but we have often focussed on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us...

Silent Prayer and Reflection

Words of Assurance

Jesus said, “God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” *(John 3:17)* Receive the Good News: in Christ, we are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Each day of our lives we are presented with opportunities to respond to God's love and give of ourselves in faithful service. There are many ways to give, each according to our own abilities, with all gifts working together for the sake of the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God. You are now invited to give, as you are able, to support the work of this community of faith.

Offertory "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU #541

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,

and many nations shall come and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own
fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.

Psalm 107: 1-9, 33-37

VU #831-832

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries

broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one God on earth, for you have one God—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, RCMP and Regional Police forces who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From

generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among

us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day ... restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways of peace. Amen.

***Hymn** “God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace” VU #676

***Blessing**

(Based on Ephesians 6)

Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

Take up the whole armour of God and remain steadfast.

Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace” VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.