

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

**October 17, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**21st 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**

**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**                      "Breath of God, Breath of Peace"                      MV #24 v. 1

**\*Call to Worship** (Based *(Mark 10:35-45)*)

We may come here for a glimpse of glory,  
**but Jesus asks us: “Can you drink the cup that I drink?”**  
The cup of Jesus’ own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope.  
Fullness of life!

We may come here to get close to Jesus,  
**and Jesus asks us: “Can you be baptized with my baptism?”**

Baptized into the reign of God,  
where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people  
and creates new relationships!

We may come here for honour or fame,  
**but Jesus challenges us: “To become great you must serve!”**

Why are we here?  
**To drink the cup of fullness of life;**  
**to immerse ourselves in Jesus’ struggle for justice and peace;**  
**to learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.**

Worship and work must be one! Let us worship our God.

**\*Hymn**                      “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”                      VU #232

**Prayer of Approach**

**Holy Dwelling Place,**  
**your tent is wide enough to provide**  
**shelter for all who seek you,**  
**food for all who hunger, and**  
**healing for all who suffer.**  
**Meet us here today, and fill us with confidence in your presence,**  
**that we may risk sharing Jesus’ cup and his baptism**

so the world may become  
the place of love and justice you desire for all.  
Shelter us with your light,  
and clothe us with your heavenly garments.  
Teach us how we may best serve ourselves and one another  
on this daring adventure. 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.**

**Responsive Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c**

**VU #826 Parts 1 &2**

**\*Hymn "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"**

**VU #356 vv. 1, 2**

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

**\*Hymn "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"**

**VU #356 v. 3**

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Offertory Invitation**

Jesus came not to be served but to serve.  
Let us follow this example and share our gifts  
so that we may also experience the joys and challenges of serving.  
So often we give out of guilt; may our offering this morning be  
given from a place of generosity.

**Offertory**      “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”      VU #541

### **\*Presentation of Offering**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Parent God, may this offering assist us  
in continuing Christ’s work in the world  
to heal the grief, transgressions, and illnesses  
that oppress and harm your creation. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Word**

#### **Job 38:1-7, 34-41**

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
Gird up your loins like a strong human,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone  
when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,  
so that a flood of waters may cover you?  
Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go  
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?  
Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,  
or given understanding to the mind?  
Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?  
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,  
when the dust runs into a mass  
and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,  
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,  
when they crouch in their dens,  
or lie in wait in their covert?  
Who provides for the raven its prey,  
when its young ones cry to God,  
and wander about for lack of food?

## **Mark 10:35-45**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of each and every life,  
you open our eyes on the world you love  
to show us your presence and your purpose in all creation.  
We thank you for the wonders of the seasons as they change,  
and for gifts of love and compassion you offer us through friend  
and stranger. We pray for the earth as it struggles to support  
your many creatures. Make us better stewards in creation,  
and kinder neighbours to both friend and stranger.

God, in your deep mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of justice,  
you open our eyes on the world to show us struggle and conflict.  
We see the burdens many are carrying,  
and the way differences create division.  
We pray for all those still struggling with the economic impact of  
the pandemic and for those feeling the stress of these days in  
deeply personal ways. Show us how to support those in difficulty  
and mend relationships in our community.

God, in your deep mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion,  
you open our eyes on the world to show us suffering and despair.  
We see challenges for health care all around us,  
and know many still face the effects of COVID-19  
or other illnesses and complications that make life hard to cope  
with. We pray for those who suffer here and in so many places in  
the world you love.

*Silence*

Give strength and compassion to all who offer treatment,

and courage and hope to all who wait for healing.

God, in your deep mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom,  
you open our eyes on the world to show us its complexities.  
We see countries locked in old animosities  
and communities overwhelmed by fresh upheaval.  
We pray for the millions displaced in current conflicts and by  
natural disasters, and for leaders here and around the world.  
Open their eyes to the suffering of the earth and those in their  
jurisdictions. And open all our eyes to ways we can participate in  
solutions to situations which break your heart and ours.

God, in your deep mercy,  
**hear our prayer. Amen.**

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn**

“Let There Be Light”

VU #679

**\*Blessing**

Our lives are filled with struggles and suffering—  
none of us are immune.

The key to full life in Christ is not to rise above it,  
but to struggle together and help one another along the way,  
knowing that God is with us in every moment.

This is service.

If we seek to serve and lift one another up,  
committing to struggle together,  
together we will witness Christ’s glory.

So be it!

And now, as we are held, may we go forth to hold others  
in the name of the Redeemer, Sustainer and Spirit. Amen

**\*Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.