

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

September 26, 2021

10:30 a.m.

18th Sunday After Pentecost

Creation 3 - Sky

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?"

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit**

"Let Us Build a House"

MV #1 v. 1

***Call to Worship**

Through sun and shadow,
God's love will remain.

Through torrent and thunder,
God's love will remain.

Through fog and flurries,
God's love will remain.

Through breeze and bluster,
God's love will remain.

Through cloudless and clear,
God's love will remain.

Through rain and rainbow,
God's love will remain.

Through all that life beings,
God's love will remain.

Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn**

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

VU #307

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One,
you cradle each of us
with remarkable hope.
You wrap each of us
in a deep, mysterious love.
You wipe each tear away
with infinite gentleness.
You celebrate each of us
for the one-of-a-kind beauty we each possess.
May we now celebrate these blessings
with open spirits and grateful hearts.**

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 19

VU #740 -741

***Hymn** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" VU#291 vv. 1-3

All God's Children

***Hymn** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" VU#291 vv. 4-5

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *Based on Jeremiah 4:23-28*

Jeremiah was a prophet who lived a long time ago. A prophet is someone who reminds people to live according to God's ways. Jeremiah lived during a dangerous and hard time, and tried to

help people stay faithful in the midst of all these difficulties.

Jeremiah, what do you see?

I see lands made barren and dry; I see the heavens made dark.

Jeremiah, why do you see this?

God's people have forgotten who they are.

Jeremiah, what do you see?

I see mountains quaking,

I see empty skies with no birds anywhere,

I see ruins where there once were cities.

Jeremiah, why do you see this?

God's people have forgotten who they are,

and now it is time for them to remember.

Jeremiah reminded people long ago of what they had forgotten.

Jeremiah's words remind us of what we forget.

When lands turn barren,

when skies are empty of wings,

when cities become ruins:

we have forgotten that we are God's people.

Silent Reflection

It is time for us to remember. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Many years after Jeremiah, Paul - a follower of Jesus - tried to help people remember.

Paul, what are you writing?

A letter to God's people.

Paul, what do you say to them?

I tell them to hold fast to God's word of life,

that they might shine like bright stars in the sky.

We will hold fast to God's word of life.

We will remember that we are God's people.

And may we each shine like a bright star in the sky. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

“Walk With Me”

VU# 649 chorus

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God,

We thank you for your many gifts to us:

the unfolding of day and night;

the smell of a meal being prepared;

the voice of a friend greeting us;

the feel of a cool breeze against our cheeks.

We now offer these gifts in response

as a sign of our gratitude

and gesture of our lives. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Jeremiah 4:23-28

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,

and all the birds of the air had fled.
I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I
will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above grow black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

Philippians 2:14-18

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Gracious God,

you have called many people together
to become the church that bears Jesus' name.
Thank you for joining us in community in so many different places,
and for giving us opportunities to make a difference.
Bless our congregation and our denomination,
so that we are united in mission and purpose, wherever and
however we serve.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Creator God, you made all things and called them good.
May the earth be held in reverence by all people.
May its resources be used wisely,
and the fragile balance between all its species respected.
Be with those whose lives have been disrupted by wildfire, storm
and drought, and bring healing to creatures and communities
struggling for life.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Comforting God,
your Anointed One became a refugee with no place to call his
own. Look with mercy on all those who are fleeing from danger,
and find themselves homeless and hungry.
Bless and protect those who work to bring relief;
and inspire generosity and compassion in hearts that have
resources to share.
Guide the nations to work together to bring an end to conflict
so that little children may grow up safe and happy in their own
homes.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Eternal Ruler,

all nations rise and fall in your sight.

Hear our prayers for those who rule in countries around the world, that they may act with integrity, establish justice for all citizens, and seek the ways of peace.

Give guidance to the new government elected in Canada this week, to address the needs of the most vulnerable, and to lead recovery from the pandemic in prudent and generous ways.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, we bring before you the names of people and places on our hearts this day, seeking the right gift only you can give them:

(silence)

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Ever faithful God,

you have knit together your people from all times and places into the body of Christ through resurrecting love.

Keep us in communion with all your saints,

those we have known and loved, as well as those known best to you. Inspire us to learn from the examples of their faith in action, and bring us together in the joy we will know in your presence.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God,

accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken,

and strengthen us to do your will through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “God Who Gives to Life its Goodness” VU #260

***Blessing**

May the rain of kindness fall upon you.
May each cloud spark your imagination.
May the stars' light give you strength.
May the bright blue sky bring you peace.

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

***Choral Benediction** “One More Step Along the World I Go” VU# 639

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.