

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

September 5, 2021

10:30 a.m.

15th 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.

The Community Gathers

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 Presentation

***Introit** "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" VU #240 vv. 2, 3

***Call to Worship**

One: Put your confidence in God.

All: Those who have God as their helper will rejoice.

One: God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

All: God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.

One: So, put your trust in God's goodness.

All: Let God's reign endure forever! Let us worship God.

***Hymn** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" VU #670

Prayer of Approach

Eternal God, first and last, our beginning and our end,
beside you there is nothing or no one greater.

You gave breath to all living things.

By your Spirit, you are among us still, breathing new life,
turning anger into reconciliation,

division into unity,

grief into consolation.

Through your grace, you open up new directions and new possibilities
for the world you love.

So, we offer you our lives and our labours in worship and in service,
joining in creation's song of praise and adoration:

Holy, holy, holy are you, O God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Lord's Prayer

Hymn "Draw the Circle Wide" MV #145 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Psalm 125

VU #849

James 2: 1-10, 14-17

Anthem

“Jesus is My Lord”

Sermon

“Living with Joy”

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

The Book of Proverbs declares that those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. We do not bring bread today, but we offer a portion of God's gifts to us. May our gifts and our labours, whether paid or volunteered, meet the needs of those who often go without.

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need in kindness rather than judgment, and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ's sake, that our faith in his love will show in our actions through the church that bears his name.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God in whom we live and move and have our being:
We come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close:

we give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed
to catch up with family and friends;
to travel for recreation and restoration and let our worries go.
We are grateful for each moment to savour the beauty of creation.
Refresh us for the season ahead we pray,
and renew our commitment to serve you.

O God, Jesus faced many demands wherever he went,
and pressure from critics, whatever he did.
We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:
for those whose work is stressful, exhausting, or unappreciated;
for those whose livelihoods remain uncertain,
because of the pandemic or through disasters caused by heat, fire, or storm.

We pray for those with hard choices to make,
about work or school or what comes next,
about relationships and priorities,
or about social policy and community leadership.

(Hold silence for 20 seconds)

May they know your strength and guidance day by day.

Today we remember those for whom this summer has been filled with suffering:

we pray for those who have lost loved ones,
and those facing an uncertain future or a difficult diagnosis.

We pray for those who have lost their homes, for whatever reason,
and for those who despair about the climate crisis
and what can be done to repair the suffering earth.

(Hold silence for 20 seconds)

We pray for all those who join efforts to relieve suffering of any kind.
May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.
As we prepare to leave this service, walk with us,

come near to us and overcome our fear.

***Hymn** “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” VU # 245

***Blessing**

Amen.

Choral Benediction “Will You Come and Follow Me” VU #567 vv. 1, 5

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.