

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

April 24

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

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

There was a person who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

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

***Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

God's rainbow arches over us;
we fear nothing anymore.

For what can conquer God?

**Before the beginning, and after the end,
God is, and God will be.**

Everything works together for God's goals.

If God is with us, nothing we do is wasted;

like sunbeams dancing on a lake,

even our weakest efforts

will gather into the glory of God.

**Gales may buffet, and storm clouds may shadow,
but God will never give up on us.**

We will arise and go now;

we will sink into God's watery womb,

and rise again into a new life.

A new day has dawned.

This is the day God gave us -

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn “Never Ending Joy”

MV #40

Opening Prayer

**We are witnesses, O God,
that, in you, suffering and death
do not have the final word.**

**Praise be to you, for the dawning of this new day;
a day when gentleness rules over might,
Spirit makes a way for true community,
and love always wins.**

**This is the day you have given us;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which 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 150

VU# 874

***Hymn** "like a child"

VU #366 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "like a child"

VU #366 v. 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and rising. As we present our offering today, let us give with thankful hearts, trusting that God can do amazing things through the gifts we offer.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** "Deep in Our Hearts" MV #154 v. 2

**Generous God,
along with our gifts we offer you our thanks for your steadfast
love, our foundation when things around us seem uncertain.
Bless these gifts and the ministry of our congregation. May what
we offer spread the blessings we know to others, in the name
of Jesus Christ, the Risen One.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Acts 5:27–32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God

of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

John 20:19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to

him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good.

Your steadfast love endures forever.

We thank you, God, for the many ways you provide for our needs: for air and water, for food and shelter, for work to do and rest to sustain us. We pray for your creation, too often at risk because of the choices we’ve made. Help us care for the earth and all its creatures and relationships. Show us how to cherish the gifts you have given and protect them for future generations.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good.

Your steadfast love endures forever.

We thank you, God, for family:

the families we were born or adopted into,

the families we married into,

and other families who welcomed us into their midst

as friends and neighbours.

We pray for those who have lost family members and relationships,

and for any who know abuse and pain within the family circle.

Keep a brief silence

God, we also thank you for friendship:
for friends who have supported us through months of pandemic
restrictions and for those who bring us joy and wise counsel.
Help us extend the gift of friendship
to those who are experiencing isolation, loneliness or grief.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good.
Your steadfast love endures forever.

We thank you, God, for the peace and freedom we enjoy in
Canada,
and pray that the conflict over what these gifts mean
will be soothed with deeper understanding among us all.
We pray for those who know neither freedom nor peace:
those living under oppressive regimes or in conflict zones,
and those who have fled their homelands, in search of safety.

Ukraine, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan

Give us courage to stand up for people who cannot stand up for
themselves, so that they too will know peace and freedom.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good.
Your steadfast love endures forever.

We thank you, God, for your Church,
for our congregation and its leaders,
and for all who volunteer time, talent and energy
to the work we undertake in Jesus' name.
By your Spirit, guide us as we regroup

after the months of pandemic and
inspire us with new insight into mission and ministry.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good.
Your steadfast love endures forever.

O God, thank you for the gift of your Chosen One, Jesus
whose resurrection empowers us to look to the future with hope.
Thank you for the gift of your Spirit
who draws us into unity with you and one another. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" VU #326

***Benediction**

You are sent out in Jesus name - to proclaim God's love
and the message that Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!
You are witnesses to these things. Go now with confidence,
knowing that you are children of God, emboldened to share God's
love with others. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Dance With the Spirit" MV #156

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.