

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

**January 30, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Fourth after Epiphany**

**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)

**Bible Presentation**

**\*Introit**

"A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (Chorus)

## Call to Worship

In a world where sometimes we feel cast out,  
**God calls us back to community.**

In a world sometimes obsessed with ideals of purity,  
**God calls us to be renewed and restored to community.**

In a world where there is always more to do,  
**God invites us to pause, to pray, to listen, to worship in community.**

Come, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn** "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

VU #79

## Prayer of Approach

**Gracious God, we come before you this morning knowing that what you call us to be and want for us is sometimes at odds with what the world expects from us. Sometimes we feel on the edge between the world we live in and the world which you call us to be part.**

**Show us your way, O Holy One, that we may learn how to be about your ministry even as we live on the edge. Open our hearts to receive your word and your guidance for our lives.**

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 71:1–6**

VU #789 Part One

**\*Hymn** “Fairest Lord Jesus”

VU #341 vv. 1, 2

**All God’s Children**

**\*Hymn** “Fairest Lord Jesus”

VU #341 vv. 3, 4

**Lord of the Morning**

Bless us, O God, this day, fresh made.  
In the course of birds, bless us.  
In the scent of blossom, bless us.  
In the in the gift of a new day,  
bless us and heal us,  
for we come to you in love and in trust.  
We come to you in expectant hope.

*Silence*

O God, give us a well of tears  
to wash away the hurts of our lives.  
O God, give us a well of tears

to cleanse the wounds,  
to bathe the battered face of our world.  
O God, give us a well of tears  
or we are left, like arid earth, unsanctified.

Heal us and your grieving world  
of all that harms us.  
By the power of your resurrection  
restore us to new life,  
set us on a new path,  
bring us from darkness to light,  
help us to choose hope.

Jesus says, "Pick up your bed and walk."  
Pick up the bed of your sorrows and fears,  
pick up the bed of your grief and your sin,  
pick up your life and come, come follow me.

*The Pattern of Our days, Worship in the Celtic Tradition from the Iona Community.*  
Edited by Kathy Galloway.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Offertory Invitation**

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the greatest of gifts is love.  
The blessings we enjoy in life speak of God's love for us.  
What we offer to God speaks of our love for the One who has  
reached out to us in Jesus. May our gifts share that love with  
God's world.

### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** "What Can I Do"

MV #191

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**God of life and love, we are grateful for all you have given us in Christ and in creation, in community and in the Church that bears Jesus' name. We offer our gifts to you in love, trusting you will bless them and us. May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at work in the world for Christ's sake. Amen.**

### **Listening for the Word**

#### **Sacred Scripture**

##### **1 Corinthians 13:1–13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to

an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **Luke 4:21–30**

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## Music Selection

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, your love is patient.

We give you thanks for all those who have been patient with us, teaching us and caring for us in so many ways.

We pray for the patience to love others as you have loved us.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is kind.

Thank you for every unexpected gesture of kindness we have received.

Give us the courage to be kind to others, serving those who seem unkind, rude, or difficult to love in these difficult days.

Remind us that each one we meet is your child, our sister or brother made in your image.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is not arrogant, nor does it seek its own interests.

Thank you for all who work to serve those who cannot fend for themselves.

Strengthen those who have lost hope and confidence in their own value.

Give us insight to speak the truth in love and to work for change that creates opportunities for those on the margins

and respect for any who face discrimination.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, your love is not quick-tempered.

Thank you for every occasion when someone spared us from their anger.

We pray for those who are filled with anger  
and for all around them who face or fear violence.

Raise up advocates for children and elders who are abused,  
and rescue those who are trapped in relationships that injure and harm.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, your love bears all things; it never fails.

We thank you for those we have loved in this life  
and who now dwell in the peace and joy of your presence.

Let your comfort settle on those who are bereaved or lonely this day.

We remember before you those with heavy burdens, many cares,  
much stress, and those who find too little comfort and help.

Open our eyes to those in need around us  
and show us how to offer support and companionship,

for the sake of Christ, our friend and saviour,

We offer our prayers in love. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

VU #509

**\*Benediction**

God's call to us drives us to the edge:

**to place of hurting; to place of need.**

In those places we find hope and help because we are not alone.

**God goes with us.**

Yes, God goes with us. Together we go out to serve at all those edgy places where we are called to serve, ever mindful that we are not alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Choral Benediction** “Behold, Behold I Make All Things New” MV #115

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.