

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

July 24, 2022

10:30 a.m.

7th After Pentecost

Pride Sunday

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

Gathered together, we proclaim the Good News of God publicly, intentionally, and explicitly:

This community joyfully affirms God's love for all people.

The presence of God welcomes the fullness of who we are.

We are people who desire. Who long. Who practice love in many ways.

We celebrate love that is platonic and love that is erotic.

Love in all its ways and expressions.

We are people who want to know and be known - for who we've been, who we are, and who we are becoming.

We honour identities in transition.

We delight in authentic self-expression.

Whether trans(1) or intersex(2) or cis(3), God moves in our becoming.

How wonderful are the many works of God's creative hand!

May all who long for Love's embrace feel their Holy worth.

Let's worship the God's whose name is Love.

***Hymn** "Draw the Circle Wide"

MV #145

Opening Prayer

Beloved God, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn. May we endeavour to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts.

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 121

VU #844 & 845

***Hymn "God of the Sparrow"**

VU #229 vv. 1-4

All God's Children

***Hymn "God of the Sparrow"**

VU #229 vv. 5-6

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sin before God and one another ... Sadly, the God of many images, is often reduced to one.

silent confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God, who made me in Your image,
teach me to love myself as You love me.

God, who made me in Your image,
allow me to show that image to the world.

God who made me in Your image,
help me to see Your image in all those I meet.

God, who made me in Your image,
teach me to conserve and protect all Your creation.

God, who made me in Your image,
bles, protect, and keep me and all Your children safe.

Assurance of Amazing Love

The One who breathed life into our lungs continues to be present with us. God, who has made us reflective of God's own image, has made us new creations. Therefore, as embraced folk, to let us go forth with love and peace, honouring and upholding the dignity of all we meet, welcoming all we meet, knowing, in each one, we see reflections of God's image.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Video Presentation Sisters Let Us Walk Together

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Micah 4:1-5 Peace and Security through Obedience

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own
fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
for ever and ever.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the

body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy One,

Today we celebrate Pride — the gift of living into the fullness of who you have created us to be. Bless all who celebrate this weekend with joy in the knowledge that they belong.

We come with gratitude, Holy Mystery, for all the ways you are known to us and for all the ways you confound our comprehension. We give thanks to you, gender-bending God, who is both mother and father and still between and beyond all our categories of understanding. We celebrate the queerness of Spirit that beckons us out, to new horizons of hope and fuller communion with your being.

We give thanks, we give thanks for all the ways that Love finds us.

And as we celebrate, keep within in us the memory that Pride is also protest — a prophetic witness to the struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and every non-conforming ancestor who has gone before us.

We remember today that joy and love dancing are courageous

acts of sacred resistance: a testament to the goodness of your creation, a celebration of triumph over the forces of dehumanization and shame.

With gratitude, we call to mind the faces of all the holy trailblazers, in our own lives and in our larger story, who fought and suffered much, who modeled wisdom and compassion to show us how wide and inclusive Love's welcome is. We hold these people in our hearts. Bless and keep also the saints among us now — those still using their gifts to speak out in myriad ways and showing us the continuing revelation of beloved kin-dom.

This morning we remember especially those for whom living authentically has meant loss and grief. We remember those struggling to come out to themselves or their loved ones. We remember those who have been cast aside by family and friends, those abused and silenced, and all lives cut short by shame, stigma, and prejudice. Forgive us, O God, when we let fear shrink our hearts and we try to place limits on your boundless love. May we keep striving to make a world where all people know dignity and can enjoy a life of love and health and equal rights.

We pray that this remembering will strengthen our commitment to create sanctuary and deep welcome for those who have been marginalized. May our worship increase our awareness of grace — that we might give and receive it more freely with one another and all those we encounter. And may our worship reveal the work that is ours to do.

We offer this prayer with Jesus, our sibling and our friend. Amen.

Prayer written by Lauren Plummer, Glendale Baptist Church.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Though Ancient Walls”

VU #691

***Benediction**

Beloved, let us go with hearts full of courage,
that we might practice love that disrupts bigotry.
Let us go with minds open to experiencing God
in ways strange and unexpected, in ways ordinary and everyday.
And let us go with joy, for the Creator of all life goes with us.
Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

Terms Used in this Worship:

1. **Trans** - People whose gender identity is the opposite of their assigned sex (trans men and trans women).
2. **Intersex** - A person born with a combination of male and female biological traits.
3. **Cis**- Whatever gender you are now is the same as what was presumed for you at birth.
4. **LGBTQ2+** - acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Two-Spirit.