

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

March 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Lent

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)

Lenten Litany

Jesus knew that following God was not an easy path. We hope and expect that life will be comfortable and easy. Following Jesus means losing our life as we know it so that we can save it. Discomfort lies in confronting the ways in which we ourselves contribute to pain and suffering in the world.

The second rock is placed

The rock of discomfort.

May God spirit walk with us.

***Introit** “Don't Be Afraid”

MV #90

Call to Worship

Blessed and blessing,
loving and loved,
God's people, Central Queens community of faith, come to this place!

We're ready!

From times of work, from times of play,
from times of busy-ness, from times away,
God's people, of Central Queens community of faith, come!

We're ready!

To speak and to receive, to sing and to pray,
God's people of Central Queens community of faith, come!

We're here!

We're here!

We're here to worship God!

Prayer of Approach

**God of smooth road,
God of the rough places,
God of the wilderness paths,
thank you.**

**Thank you for calling us out
when we want to wrap ourselves up and hide.**

**Thank you for giving us safe space
when everything is just too much.**

**Thank you for blessing all creation with your presence,
and with your love.**

**Open our hearts, we pray—open our minds—
open our souls and, by your grace,
fill them with your abundant love;
not only so that we would be changed,
not only so that we would be blessed,
but so that we can be blessing
and people of transformation,
in your world.**

In Jesus’ name we ask 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 27

VU #754

***Hymn "I Can Feel You Near Me God"**

MV #48

All God's Children

***Hymn "I Can Feel You Near Me God"**

MV #48

Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion,
we often seek our own comfort.
We prefer our own plans to your purposes.
We shrink from costly discipleship and
put our own interests first.
Forgive our fleeting commitment
and the times we have indulged our own complaints.
Have mercy on us.
Inspire us with the energy to do your will
and serve our neighbours in the example of Jesus
who is the Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Unending Love

Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have not always followed God's way, it is a greater truth that God's love still surrounds us. A love poured out in Jesus the Christ.

As we seek God's ways, we quickly learn of unconditional Love. In the love, we are all set free to be the people God calls us to be. So, be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year,
as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.
On that journey, he met many people.
In that meeting, they were blessed.
In that blessing, many of them were changed.
In that change, many of them shared what they had experienced.
In that sharing, they changed the world.
We are disciples of Christ, blessed by his teaching
and blessed by his love.
So, let's share who we are and what we have,
that, in that sharing, we would be part of blessing God's world.
Let us gather together what we are able to offer!

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"**

MV #171 (Chorus)

***Offertory Prayer**

**God of all creation,
we know that
all that we have,
all that we are,
is blessed and blessing.
In this sharing,
we add our blessing to yours.
May all of these blessings
bring hope and healing to your world.
Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him...

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your

house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Anthem Amazing Grace / Pachelbel's Canon Barrie Reid

Sermon

Reflective Music Spirit of Gentleness Barrie Reid

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Great is thy Faithfulness" VU #288

***Benediction**

Blessed and blessing,
loving and loved,
God's people of Central Queens community of faith,
go from this place!

We're ready!

To times of work,
to times of play,
to times of busy-ness,
to times away,

God's people of Central Queens community of faith,
go to the world!

We're ready!

To speak and to listen,
to sing and to pray,
to be a blessing,

each and every day.

God's people of Central Queens community of faith,
go and be stewards of the faith,
Jesus' people on the Way.

**We go, knowing we are never alone!
Carried by the wings of the Holy Spirit,
moving forward with Christ's peace,
enfolded in the Creator's love,
we go!
Amen. Amen! AMEN!**

***Choral Benediction "Peace Be with You"**

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.