

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

March 6, 2022

10:30 a.m.

1st 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 wandered in the wilderness and was tempted.
In that wilderness, he encountered rock and stone.
They are the landscape of a harsh environment.

As we enter Lent, we intentionally enter the harsh environment of pain and suffering in our lives and in the world. The temptation is to avoid suffering and pain.

(First brick is placed)

The rock of temptation.

May God's spirit walk with us.

***Introit** "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

Call to Worship

In this place, at this time,
let us call out of what is good.
In this place, at this time,
let us surrender what does harm.
In this place, at this time,
let us be filled with worship.

We are an offering to God.

Let us present ourselves freely.

***Hymn** "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

VU #108

Prayer of Approach

Divine Sojourner,
as we saunter far into the wilderness, may your light sustain us.
May the questions that fill our minds with doubt drift away into
the sands of the journey. May we dig within our souls to remove
the prejudices deep within us. However we wander in this
season, may your Holy Glow refocus our attention on our

relationship with you and the ways we connect with each other.

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 91:1–2, 9–16

VU #807

***Hymn** “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”

VU #605 v. 1

All God's Children

***Hymn** “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”

VU #605 v. 2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours”**

MV #171 (Chorus)

***Offertory Prayer**

**Not by magic,
but through the generosity of your people
do stones become bread, O God.
Not by gathering power to ourselves,
but through serving others
do we find the purpose of our lives.
Not by upfront guarantees,
but through trusting and risking
do we live faithfully.
Thank you, God, for these wilderness lessons,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

John Moses - Gathering-Lent, Easter 2016 , Page 33

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him,

“Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Luke 4:1–13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only God.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘God will command the angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of grace,
you are our Judge and our Hope.
Transform us with your love and harness our energy for your
purposes in the world
into which Christ came and for which he died.
Hear us as we pray for the world, the church and our community:

We pray for the earth as your creation,
staggering under the demands of human activity and expectation.
May this planet, our home, be held in reverence in every culture.
Where we are tempted to use resources carelessly,
where human lifestyles endanger homes and habitats of other
peoples or other species,
where immediate gain tempts people to give no thought for the
future, send your wisdom to guide citizens and decision makers to
act responsibly.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church facing the challenges of rebuilding
ministry and mission
amid the uncertainties created by the pandemic.
Where congregations are tempted to guard traditions and resist
new possibilities,
where members magnify differences instead of celebrating our
unity in Christ,
where energy for leadership and community life has grown
weaker, send your healing and transforming grace.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for relationships suffering under the stress of prolonged
pandemic restrictions.
Where families are tempted to nurse grudges and harbour
complaints, where friendships have been wounded by
misunderstanding or neglect,
where workplace tensions have arisen over clashing opinions or
exhausting demands, send your reconciling and restoring mercy.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world filled with increasing threats and conflicts. Where countries are torn by unrest and persecution, where communities are diminished by prejudice and discrimination, where those with power and authority degrade or dismiss their critics, empower those who work for just solutions and advocate for the powerless.....

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are troubled and find it hard to face these uncertain times, we pray for those who face illness or loss of any kind, for those challenged by economic hardship, and for those faced with the reality of death, their own or of someone dear. In silence, we name those on our hearts this day:

Silence

Embrace each one with your compassion and courage.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Even as we remember the many challenges around us,
we give you thanks for the blessings we know,
for moments of pleasure,
for laughter shared,
for conversations that brightened a day.
Thank you for your steadfast love
and the comfort we draw from your presence with us in all things.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

VU #421

***Benediction**

As we wander on this journey,
may God the Divine Light open our souls to healing and wisdom.
May Christ the Sojourner lead us into oases of renewal in arid and
barren times.
May the Spirit of Hope fill us with courage to carry on.
As Jesus embraced the struggles of the wilderness, may we find
strength to abide in our wilderness of the soul. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be with You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.