

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

**November 13, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**23th After Pentecost**

**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 and Fill Our Hearts"

**MV #16**

## **Call to Worship**

Come and worship God, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Come and worship God, who rejoices and delights in God's people.**

Come and worship God, who promises justice and peace for all.

**Come and worship the God of our salvation!**

**\*Hymn “Oh a Song Must Rise”**

MV #142

## **Opening Prayer**

**God of promise, hope and salvation, creator of heaven and earth,**

**we give you thanks for visions of hope and rejoicing, health and long life,**

**meaningful work and answered prayers.**

**In our times of fear and anxiety,**

**may these promised visions be ever before us. Amen.**

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.**

**Responsive Reading** Isaiah 12

VU #880

**\*Hymn** “It Only Takes a Spark”

VU #289 vv. 1, 2

**A Time For all Ages**

**\*Hymn** “It Only Takes a Spark”

VU #289 v. 3

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Creator God, sometimes we struggle to see ourselves as creators  
made in your image.**

**Sometimes we forget that you made us in love,  
and that you call us to love you in return.**

**Sometimes we remember too clearly the pains and heartaches of  
the past.**

**Sometimes we cling to them, and even re-create those painful  
times.**

**Sometimes we ignore your promise for our future.**

**Sometimes we forget to turn to you in prayer.**

**We forget to call on your name.**

**Forgive us, gracious God. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Amazing Love**

Before we call to God,  
God promises to answer.  
Even as we prayed to God,  
God hears our prayers, our hopes, our fears.  
Surely, God is our salvation.  
We will trust and not be afraid,  
for God is our strength and might; and yes, God is our salvation.  
Amen.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Each week we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom. Though we do not know exactly what this will look like, we offer our gifts to God for the work of the Kingdom here and now.

### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** "You, God, Are My Firmament" VU #279 v.1

### **Offertory Prayer**

**O loving Creator,  
we see your hands open wide to satisfy the needs of every living  
creature.  
Create in us thankful hearts, for all your loving providence.  
Help us to be faithful stewards of the gifts you have given us,  
to share your love throughout all the world. Amen.**

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Word

#### Isaiah 65:17–25

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

### **Luke 21:5–19**

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great

earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of our past and our future,  
God of healing and hope,  
we come before you with grateful hearts  
trusting that you walk with us through all the times of our lives.  
We give you thanks for all the benefits we share  
in a nation with many resources and many opportunities.

Yet we remember before you the many who do not have enough  
and cannot see their way forward.  
We remember before you those living with hunger  
and communities struggling with the impact of fire and storm,  
earthquake and famine.

*silence*

We pray for all those working to relieve suffering in so many precious lives here and around the world.

God of these present times,  
We give you thanks that we live in a country of relative peace and good order,  
a place where injustices past and present become subjects of investigation.

We pray for the work of healing and reconciliation engaging indigenous communities with other citizens in this land. Open hearts in mutual understanding and provide opportunities for common enterprise.

We pray for those who have come to Canada, fleeing violence and deprivation in their homelands. Provide comfort and support through the generosity of neighbours and protect newcomers from misunderstanding and discrimination.

Guide us to create a sense of home that all can share.

God of time beyond our imagining,  
We give you thanks for all we learn through scientific investigation that stretches us to reimagine your creation in its vast mystery and beauty.

Thank you for increasing insight in medical science and the possibilities it adds to your gifts of hope and healing. We pray for all those who work in health care in this stressful time,  
for patients waiting for treatment  
and for those whose conditions find no relief.  
Bless them with your Spirit of courage and comfort.



Thank you for increasing insight in climate science  
and the awareness it gives about the impact of our lives on the  
wellbeing of the earth.

Create better agreement and cooperation in our communities  
to protect the earth for future generations  
by the ways we adapt our lifestyles now.

Bless us all with your Spirit of courage and commitment.

God of all life and each life,  
In these moments of silence we hold before you those on our  
hearts this day who need to know you are near and that we care  
for them too:

Make us signs of hope and healing for every life we touch. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn** “Though Ancient Walls”

VU 691

**\*Benediction**

May God, our creator, who provides water from the wells of  
salvation,  
who saves with strength and might,  
be with us all as we go forth from this place,  
and may God's joyful song always sing in our hearts. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.