

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

**November 20, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**24th After Pentecost**

**Reign of Christ**

**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** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" VU #822 v. 1

## **Call to Worship**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**We gather to celebrate another day that God has kept us.**

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

**We gather to bear witness to all that God has done for us.**

Come, behold the works of God!

**We gather to worship our God who loves and protects us.**

**\*Hymn** "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

VU #334 vv. 1-4, 6

## **Opening Prayer**

**Though many forces have scattered us in various ways, we invite you to, O God, bring us together, help us focus on things that bring life and light to all. Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits, Gathering God, to be present and ready to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship.**

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** Luke 1:68–79

VU # 900–901

**\*Hymn** “The Lord told Noah”

**A Time For all Ages**

**\*Music** while the Children depart for Sunday School

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**It’s so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions. Whether survival instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don’t look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine. We hear your call to new possibilities, to new life.**

**Assurance of Amazing Love**

Even when we cling to the things that unnecessarily separate us, God un-scatter us. No matter who we are or what has brought us to this very moment, God chooses to love us back to wholeness, individually and communally. Hallelujah and amen!

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Just as God spoke to those in Jeremiah's day, we're faced with an opportunity to participate in God's restorative action in the world. Where others have scattered, God is gathering. Let us be empowered to share our gifts fruitfully and allow God to multiply them for the good of all.

### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"  
VU #541

### **Offertory Prayer**

**We're grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully and abundantly, God. We ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. May it be so!**

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Word

#### Jeremiah 23:1–6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

## **Luke 23:33–43**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

**Anthem** “Days of Elijah”

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we give you thanks that you reign through love  
as the power that embraces the world with mercy and hope.  
Thank you for revealing that to trust is wisdom,  
to forgive is the best way to deal with enemies,  
and to serve is the best way to lead.  
We pray that, through the grace of your kingdom,  
each beloved creature and citizen will know safety and  
satisfaction in their homes.  
Let the vision of your peaceable kingdom take root in our hearts,  
bringing healing to families and communities,  
and in every place wounded by violence or destruction.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We give you thanks for reaching out to those on the margins  
and those others shunned,  
so that each one knew they belonged in your kingdom.  
We pray for those who face discrimination or insecurity in our  
communities,  
longing for respect and a change to thrive.  
Teach us how to live differently as neighbours,  
to acknowledge and work with others we've never worked with  
before.  
Lead us by your Spirit  
to share in your work of mending the world.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Thank you for enduring the pain of the cross and the darkness of  
the tomb

to show us there is life beyond death through your resurrecting  
love.

We pray for those who are grieving a loss this day,  
the loss of someone beloved,  
the loss of love or hope or trust,  
the loss of opportunity or security or future plans.

Be present with all who the sadness and disruption of a loss,  
and bring each one comfort and courage.

Lord Jesus Christ,

This day we pray for your church at work in the world,  
confronting the challenges and changes of these times.

Unite us in witness and service,  
and encourage us when difficulties arise,  
for we are your people, committed to the unfolding of your reign  
among us. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn** "Guide Me, O Thy Great Jehovah"

VU # 651



## **\*Benediction**

May you experience God's goodness in your coming, going, and staying.

May you witness God's activity in your work, play, and world at large.

May you feel God's presence in your life, relationships, and self.

May you know God's love now and forever more. Amen.

## **\*Choral Benediction** "Dance With the Spirit"

MV #156

## **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.