

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

November 27, 2022

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

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 the Candle of Hope

Reader 1: One candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

Reader 2: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. (Isaiah 9:2)

Advent Candle is lit

Hymn "A Candle is Burning"

VU #6 v. 1

Prayer Living God, We thank you for faithful people of every age.
We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of the
darkness of our times, and may look for the coming of Jesus
into our world. Amen.

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

VU #38 v.3

***Call to Worship**

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"
We come today with eager expectation.
Our feet are standing within God's gates.
Come, let us go up to the mountain
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.
We come today with holy expectation.
Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.
We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.
Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!
(Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VU #1

Prayer of Approach

**God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,
God of the hope that the present has brought us,
we call on you in this hour of worship.**
We know that you need no invitation to be with us

**for you are already and always with us—
Emmanuel, even before the Child was born.
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,
for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,
the Giver of joy, the Giver love.
Make your presence known as we make ourselves
available to you.**

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who 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 Psalm 122

VU #845

***Hymn** "Hope is a Star"

VU #7 vv.1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Hope is a Star"

VU #7 vv. 3, 4

Call to Confession

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**In a world full of hopelessness,
we have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God.
Consumed by the chaos of the world,
we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace.
We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods
felt in days when unborn hope had died;
we've forgotten that you promised us hope for a future.
So, stimulate our memory, dear God.
Remind us of that hope you assured us of.
Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.**

Assurance of God's Unending Love

Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of God. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

Offertory “Called By Earth and Sky”

MV #135

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community
we dedicate these gifts.

For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission
we dedicate these gifts.

Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples 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 the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only God. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Surprising and Steadfast God,
In the anticipation of your coming,
keep us awake so that we will see you at work in the world.
We give you thanks for moments of joy and celebration in our
lives,
for times of excitement and surprise;
for love given and received,
for friendships that furnish our life with meaning and happiness,
and for family who reflect your unconditional love.
In all our relationships and encounters,
allow us to see you in one another.

We pray for the coming of your kingdom week by week.
Today we pray for the nations,
and for all those who frame laws and shape society,
who are charged to keep the peace and administer justice.
We thank you for leaders and governors who are faithful to their
responsibilities.
And we pray for places where justice is twisted in the interests of
the powerful,
and innocents suffer as a result.

Move in the hearts and minds of leaders for the sake of justice
and generosity, so that people everywhere will experience
freedom and have hope for their futures.

We pray for those who are suffering this day,

for those who are ill, for those who mourn,
and for all fear who the future and what it may bring.

Surround them with your love,
support them with strength,
and inspire the hope they need to face another day.

Eternal God, all souls are precious to you;
the dead, as well as the living, are in your care.
We thank you for your saints of every generation.
and for those dear to our own hearts,
who have entered into your heavenly presence.
Keep us in communion with them,
and bring us with them at the last to dwell in your light.

And hear us as we offer prayers in silence for all those on our
hearts this day:

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Tomorrow Christ is Coming”

VU #27

***Blessing**

Go forth with the gift of hope
guiding you toward the path of peace.
Go forth with the gift of joy
guide you toward the path of love.
Go forth with anticipation,
trusting that God will bless and keep you,
God’s face will shine upon you,
and God’s grace will never leave you.
Amen.

Postlude

“Hope Shines as the Solitary Star”

MV #220

*Please rise as you are able.