

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

October 16, 2022

10:30 a.m.

19th 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 all You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

**In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention; with every step
we take: goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.** *written by Joanna Harader*

***Hymn** “God of Still Waiting”

MV #20

Opening Prayer

**Open our spirits to Wisdom calling:
calling us not to stand still,
not to believe in static truth,
but to seek understanding in relationship,
to find love in action,
to achieve justice in engagement.
Open our ears that we may hear the cries for peace and
equality and move toward them.
Open our mouths that we may speak.
Speak out in wisdom, in love, in justice, in truth.
Let our speaking be our worship of you,
O just Spirit, O Divine love,
O Peaceful wisdom, O, God,
our touchstone and our Redeemer.**

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 119:97–104

VU#. 840

***Hymn** "Circle Round for Freedom"

Video presentation

A Time For all Ages

***Music** while the children depart for Sunday School

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Oh God of justice,
we sometimes belittle, ignore and deride you in our search for
what is ours.**

**How often do we stand still - satisfied with or afraid to lose
what little we have -**

in search for equality for all?

**How often do we only see justice as it applies to us and not
when it is lacking for others?**

**Help us, God of justice, to take action,
so we may see you more clearly and understand you more
fully,**

as you move this world into the fullness of God's love. Amen.

Assurance of Amazing Love

God is the source and provider of grace, love, and justice, and because we are God Image, we have the assurance that those gifts flow through us also. God's justice makes a difference in us and compels us to show the fullness of who we are in God.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God's justice is persistent in affecting change and invites us to be open in our giving. Let us bring gifts to further justice and peace wherever they are desired and needed. Let these resources be used to facilitate a just peace for all.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" VU #544
(Tune: Forest Green VU 518)

Offertory Prayer

Ever giving God, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Jeremiah 31:27–34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say:

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Luke 18:1–8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”’ And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;

for we know that you have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbours.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation;

for you have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out prejudice;
for you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in
all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair;
for you have already given us the power to clear away slums and
to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease;
for you have already given us great minds with which to search
out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to you instead, O God, for strength,
determination and will power,
To do instead of just pray,
to become instead of merely to wish.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Let My Spirit Always Sing”

MV #83

***Benediction**

As we depart this sacred space, may we be committed to
persisting in prayer. May we add our voice with those who cry out
for justice and take action to ensure justice prevails. Go forth
knowing that you are heard, and you can hear. God is with you,
now GO IN GOD. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” MV #115

Postlude

***Please stand as you are able.**