

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

October 23, 2022

10:30 a.m.

20th 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

We are called to God's house, a dwelling place for all people.

ALL of us!

Happy are those who find themselves in the presence of God.

ALL of us!

Let us worship God!

ALL of us!

***Hymn** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”

VU #232

Opening Prayer

Praise to you, O God, from the wilderness of Sinai to the order of Jerusalem.

By your awesome deeds, you call us into beauty and reverence.

By your abundance, you remind us of your grace.

The mountains are strengthened by joy.

The rivers are full of life.

The pastures overflow with new life.

All of creation sings together for joy.

Though we have known storm and, we welcome a new day.

Though we have known challenging times, we will not wallow there, but instead seek to live in your mercy.

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 65

VU# 782

***Hymn** "This is God's Wondrous World"

VU #296 vv. 1, 2

A Time For all Ages

***Hymn** "This is God's Wondrous World"

VU #296 v.3

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

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Merciful God,
we are humbled by your presence and your righteousness.
And yet, we do not always believe that you are One who is ever
present with mercy and love. Give us the strength to cast off our
shame, to shed the excuses we use to protect ourselves from
the love that transforms us and our world. Amen.**

Assurance of Amazing Love

God's promise to every generation is to know that God is there
for us and we shall never be put to shame. Receive God's grace
and share it to one another. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

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

Offertory Prayer

**God we dedicate these gifts in honour of the gifts you bestow
on creation. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich
it; you provide your people with life. May the gifts we share this
day restore life and offer hope to all. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Joel 2:23–32

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never
again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Then afterwards
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Luke 18:9–14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God, we thank you that we are gathered here today and that you bring us closer in prayer.

Let us not pray that we not be like others, but that we move closer to one another.

Help us to find humility and exultation in our oneness with you and each other.

May any who feel outside due to illness, depression, debt, shame and depression feel the mercy of you, oh God, in beloved community.

In our hearts and with our voices, we lift up those we hoped to draw closer:

bless these individuals that we have named in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Help us to pray each day for the vision in the prayer that Jesus taught, until the day your reign is fully realized on earth. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "I Am a child of God"

MV #157

***Benediction**

May God stand by us and give us strength so that though us the message might be fully proclaimed and God's realm fully realized. And may we look to one another and be assured of the faith we keep together and the hope we may realize. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.