

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

April 30, 2023

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter

Central Queens Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the 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)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** Bless the Lord (Taize) X4

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life.

Call to Worship

God, our Shepherd, offers us abundant life.

God, you are with us!

God, our Shepherd, leads us by still waters.

God, restore our souls!

God, our Shepherd, walks with us through every dark valley.

God, we will not be afraid!

God, our Shepherd, we praise for your goodness and mercy with us every day.

So on the first day of the week we praise our God and give thanks.

***Hymn** "He Leadeth Me"

VU 657

Prayer of Approach

Inclusive God,
we are here together
to listen to teaching,
to praise, pray and share as part of the
worldwide Christian community.

Thanks be to God.

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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 23 God is my shepherd. VU 749

***Hymn** "Jesus Loves Me" VU 365 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Jesus Loves Me" VU 365 v. 3

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God,
thank you for community:

for those who meet here each week
and for the wider community,
for all those who care for others
and share generosity.

We hear of the costly commitment of the early church and are
aware of our shortcomings:

**the prayers we have neglected to pray,
the community members we have not visited,
the phone calls we have not made,
the people we find hard to love,
the dissension we have allowed to continue,
the resource we have not joyfully shared,
we remember these and other failures to live in
community, and we are sorry.**

Assurance of God's unending Love

God's loving, welcoming arms are open, even when
we feel we are unlovable.

God gives us the grace to move forward
in our lives and in our communities.

Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”: the words of the
Psalm celebrate God’s overflowing goodness and mercy in our

lives. We offer God our gifts so God's goodness and mercy will keep flowing into the world God made. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "You Nourish Us" VU 545

***Offertory Prayer**

**God our Creator,
your welcome to us is warm and your provision is generous;
your goodness and mercy overflow.
We bring these gifts today:
money we have earned or saved,
food with prepared or chosen.
Use them so that your abundant life is shared
with those who need it most. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their

possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1–10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "The King of Love"

VU 273

***Blessing**

Creator births and nurtures you;

God the companion calls you by name and leads you out;

God the life giver sustains you on life's journey
and will never abandon you.

Go from this place with the assurance of God's love.

**We go to share this love, trusting God who calls and strengthens
us. Amen.**

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

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