

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

**August 6, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Tenth After Pentecost**

**Holy Communion**

**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** *(Placed during the singing of the Introit)*

**\*Introit** "Sing Praises" (Taize) X4

Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord.  
Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord!

**Call to Worship**

At the center of our galaxy,  
**the Sun provides warmth, light and life.**  
At the centre of our bodies,  
**the heart provides life-giving nutrients to our bodies.**  
At the center of our worship,  
**a simple table, with simple food --- remembrance of  
unconditional love made known.**  
At the center of our faith,  
**God of Jesus -- Light, Provider, Sustainer ---- Love.**  
In these moments of worship find that quiet centre where God  
draws close to you and you to God.

**\*Hymn** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

VU 374

**Prayer of Approach**

**O Great Spirit of Life we come seeking the "sweet spot"  
where our lives connect with the life you give. The ways are  
crowded and our lives are often frenzied. We yearn to make  
room for hope and love to grow. We seek a quiet centre where**

**we are freed from the chaos and clutter. A quiet centre where our eyes can see more clearly and our lives lived more fully. As we gather in community this day, we ask for clarity to see what matters most and the courage to live faithfully. May our time away provide all this and much, much more.**

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 17:1–7, 15** Guard me as the apple of your eye.

VU 739

### **Call to Transformation and New Life**

#### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Let us take a moment to consider our need for transformation and forgiveness - toward others and ourselves. I invite you to



**made known. Such response flows from the ways of Christ and the love he revealed about the God he embodied. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Matthew 14:13–21**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Anthem**

### **Sermon**

## Reflective Music

### Responding to the Word

**Communion Hymn** “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face” VU 459

## Holy Communion

### Invitation

The Spirit of Creation is with you!

**And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.**

Open wide your souls.

**We open them to the Creator’s love.**

Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

**With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.**

### Great Thanksgiving Prayer

We delight with the Creator on this earth, and we rejoice in what God has created, is creating, and will be creating. The Spirit of Creation built this vast universe, including our beautiful, strong, and fragile planet. The earth held the plants and animals in the Garden of Eden. Later, the earth carried the Israelites on their wilderness journey and embraced them while they danced joyously in the promised land. The earth absorbed the tears of Job, supported the steps of the prophesying Elijah, and carried David in the shadow-filled valleys. Jesus taught on mountains and plains, walked throughout the land healing the aching, and prayed

in gardens late at night. In times of exile and times of return, the land held the stories of our ancestors in faith.

Today, we abide on this land in houses of worship, in homes, and in halls. We know this land we share today is sacred. It bears much fruit. It holds the flora of friendships. And deep within its cells are the stories of its ancestors – parents, guardians and leaders of the faith. We know their footprints are still felt by the earth.

And we remember the ones who held this land as their own centuries ago. They were the first to tend to the land, to nurture it as a parent would nurture their child. The winds of occupation seared the land and crushed the hearts and lives of its first inhabitants. Through the hydrating tears of our God, the land remembered its strength from its ancestors. In our spaces today, we remember their place on the land and their care for creation.

From the strength of those who have gone before comes the seeds for grains and grapes. The land has given birth to the fruits of our sacrament.

With glory to our God, we praise the Spirit of Creation:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Spirit of Earth, Air, Fire and Water,  
Heaven and Earth delights in your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna.**

**Blessed is the one who brings love and light to our world.  
Hosanna to our God. Alleluia!**

On the night before Jesus walked the ground carrying the tree to Golgotha, he gathered with faithful friends. From the grain in the ground came the bread that Jesus took and **broke in his hand**. He blessed the bread and said to his friends **“This is my body broken for you. When you eat this bread, remember me.”**

And then after supper, Jesus took a cup filled with the fruit of the vine. Knowing they were all connected like the vine and branches, Jesus said to them **“This cup is the new covenant (in my blood). As you drink from the cup, remember me.”**

Spirit of God, just as you hovered over creation and renewed your church at Pentecost, surround these elements. Encircle us, energize our souls, and connect us with each living being here on earth. Just as you have delighted in humans since creation, may your presence create joy in our spirits, transforming us into new beings.

Bless the soil that birthed the grains and grapes that we share today. May these elements be transformed into a meal that connects us all. Like the lion and ox, like the lamb and wolf, we eat together – whether near or far, whether well or ill, whether marginalized or privileged. May this meal be one in which we embrace the power we have and strengthen the world with justice and peace, kindness and love. Amen.

Come my friends, all is ready. As Jesus welcomed all, so we welcome all. This is not my table, it is God's.

## **Prayer after Communion**



**Holy God, Divine Designer-**

**With gentle compassion, you help us to find the quiet centre. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

VU 333

### **Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form. **But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you. Go cradle and share the **Light**. **Share** it to others as we go about your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

### **\*Benediction**

Taste and see that God is good. We leave here knowing that in seeking God we will find goodness --- the very heart beat of the universe shared with all --- life for all.

In our worship we have been nurtured and nourished -- no one denied. As we go out, we are called to be folk who will nurture and nourish all whom we meet. Go, be the heartbeat of God to the world in the actions of unconditional love. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction**      “Go, Make a Diff’rence”      MV 209 (Chorus)

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.