

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

January 1, 2022

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

New Year's Day

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)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "A Light is Gleaming" VU #82 (Chorus)

Call to Worship

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

The flowers, land and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being. Praise God!

***Hymn** “Joy Is Now in Every Place”

VU #45

Prayer of Approach

**God, whose name is Love,
you make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom. In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, we pray.**

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 8

VU #730–732

***Hymn** “I Am the Light of the World”

VU #87 vv.1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** “I Am the Light of the World”

VU #87 vv.3, 4

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Eternal God, the dawn of a new year prompts us to reflect on our past and hope for our future. Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us re-commit to the ways of love in this coming New Year and resolve to extend the

grace and mercy we receive from you and our neighbour. Make us new. Amen.

Assurance of God's unending Love

The God who counts our days knows us intimately, loves us abundantly, and abides with us relentlessly. Receive the brand new mercies of this day. Hold the love of God closely, firmly and freely. Transformation, grace, and new life is assured this day.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Let us put our trust in the Living God, who is faithful. Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** “What Can I Do?” MV #191

***_Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within us for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Revelation 21:1–6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Matthew 25:31–46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

Anthem

Sermon

Watch Night Service Prayer

John Wesley developed the Covenant Service in 1780. The heart of the service focused on the Covenant Prayer, which requires persons to re-commit themselves to God. The Covenant / Watch Night Service is most commonly held on New Year's Eve or Day and therefore is sometimes called a Watch Night Service.

Historically, a Watch Night Service would be three hours or

longer, including readings from Scripture and hymn singing. John Wesley was the person that inspired followers to later form what we know today as the Methodist Church which is one of the founding members of the United Church of Canada.

The prayers have been adapted for the purpose of using them for a time of reflection on New Year's promises.

Prayer

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Litany of thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies. O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the communion of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in the darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labours.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace,

we praise your holy name, O God.

Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

**And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Christ and Spirit,
thou art mine and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified
in the eternal. Amen.**

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "I See a New Heaven"

VU #713

***Blessing**

May we forget the magnificent acts of God.
May we proclaim the wondrous ways of our God.
May love be our compass and mercy our guide.
Go into the world as kinfolk of the Christ who trust in the
faithfulness of the One who calls, One who comes, and the one
who walks with us. Go in peace. Go in love. Amen.

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

Postlude

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