

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

**January 15, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday After Epiphany**

**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 "Come All You People"**

**MV #2**

## Call to Worship

O Lord, open our lips,  
**and our mouths shall declare your praise.**

O Lord, open our eyes,  
**so that we may behold your presence.**

O Lord, open our ears,  
**so that we may hear your call to follow.**

O Lord, open our hearts,  
**so that we may offer you worship in love and joy.**

**\*Hymn** “Will You Come and See the Light”

VU #96

## Prayer of Approach

**God, our Creator and Redeemer,  
your faithfulness endures forever.**

**You offer us new life in Christ Jesus and call us to follow.**

**You challenge us to bring life and hope to the world you love.**

**In you we find strength and courage to face every challenge.**

**And so we offer our praise and gratitude to you, O God,  
with Christ and the Spirit, one God, now and always.**

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 40:1–11**

VU #764

**\*Hymn “I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”**

VU #575 vv. 1, 2

**All God's Children**

**\*Hymn “I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”**

VU #575 vv. 3, 4

**Call to Transformation and New Life**

**Faithful God,  
you sent Jesus Christ to show us a new way of being,  
yet we have often lost our way.  
We seek the next new thing instead of your gift of new life.  
We follow the trends of our culture rather than Jesus' example.  
Wash over us with your cleansing Spirit,  
and renew our commitment to follow you. Amen.**

**Assurance of God's unending Love**

Let us rejoice, for God has put a new song in our mouths! Trust in  
God's enduring love and mercy, washing over us every day.

Know that forgiveness is ours, and new life is ours through the grace of God. Amen.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

God has given us a new song in our hearts, a song of thankfulness and praise. So we bring our gifts with thanksgiving and hearts cheered by God's goodness.

### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** "What Can I Do" MV #191

### **\*\_Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

**Gracious God, we offer you our gifts with humble hearts. Each gift seems small on its own, so bless each one and those of your people throughout the Church. Through the work of your Holy Spirit, surprise us with all that our gifts can accomplish, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Isaiah 49:1–7**

Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have laboured in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

### **John 1:29–42**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him,

“We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of purpose and promise,  
we open our hearts to you in prayer, trusting in your mercy to  
bear the burdens we carry.

We thank you for the work and witness of your Church,  
bringing your Good News into many lives and situations  
throughout the earth. Today we pray for congregations that are  
struggling financially, for churches caught up in conflict,  
and for all those church members who are tired and need your  
renewing Spirit.

Guide them with your grace.

We thank you for the healing that comes from your hand, O  
God, in times of reconciliation when your forgiving love is at  
work, and in times when pain is eased and grief is comforted.  
Today we pray for those whose emotions are raw,  
for those whose bodies are weakened in this winter of sickness  
and for any whose minds are troubled in any way.

Give them hope for new life with you.

We lift to you people around the world

who work for justice and unity to prevail in the midst of division:  
in nations where conflict has broken out or repression rules,  
in places facing poverty, famine or destruction from disaster,  
and anywhere racial and ethnic disparities weaken common life.  
We pray for Canada in this time when resentments simmer and  
differences deepen.

Send your justice to bring relief and your peace to help  
understanding prevail.

As the followers of Jesus, give us the courage to unite not only in  
prayer but also in action for the needs of this world.  
Strengthen us to work together, despite our differences,  
so others may see what it means to follow you in Christ's name.  
Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn** "Will You Come and Follow Me" VU #567

#### **\*Blessing**

Go with strength and humility, for you are servants of God who  
walks with you. And may the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of  
God, and the friendship of the Spirit bless and sustain you, now  
and always. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** "Dance With the Spirit" MV #156

#### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.