

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

January 9, 2022

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday After Epiphany

The Baptism of the Lord

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** “All Who Are Thirsty”

MV #4

Call to Worship

Give glory to God and bow in holy splendour!

The voice of the Creator renews and rebirths.

Give glory to God and bow in holy splendour!

The voice of God redeems and restores.

Give glory to the Living Water and bow in holy splendour!

The voice of the Living Water refreshes and revives.

Glory to God!

***Hymn** “Shall We Gather at the River”

VU #710

Prayer of Approach

Voice, Body, and Spirit,

you make your presence among us.

We receive your love and affirmation.

We cherish your guidance and direction.

We follow your path and example.

Remind us of our connection to you and your

covenantal relationship with us.

Wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization.

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 29

VU #756

***Hymn** "I've Got Peace Like a River" vv. 1, 2

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

All God's Children

***Hymn “I've Got Peace Like a River” vv. 3, 4**

**I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul**

**I've got peace, love and joy like a river
I've got peace, love and joy like a river
I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul
I've got peace, love and joy like a river
I've got peace, love and joy like a river
I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul**

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Liberating God, we confess our need for kindness and compassion. We seek forgiveness for the ways in which we have drawn away from you and our neighbours. We express remorse for our participation in the systems of the world that are actively opposed to your kingdom. Transform us to be carriers and promoters of your good news of new life, liberation and hope in the world. Amen.

Assurance of God's unending Love

The God of peace greets us with open arms and new life in Christ. Receive the good news of new mercies with each new day and a future with hope.

he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13–17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is

proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Baptism Renewal

Invitation

The Body of Christ continues to be renewed and refreshed. As members, we belong to the baptized and covenantal life in Christ. We gather today to affirm our faith and renew our commitments as followers of Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith

O God, because you are the source of all life
and love and being,
we call you Creator.

Because we know the history of your presence
among your covenanted people and honour their tradition,
we call you Lord.

Because our Saviour, Jesus Christ, your obedient child,
knew you intimately and spoke of you so,
we call you Father.

Because you are present in each act of birth;
and because you shelter, nurture and care for us,
we call you Mother.

Because you hold us up
and give us strength and courage
when we are weak and in need,
we call you Sustainer.

Because we have known you in our pain and suffering,
we call you Comforter.

Because beyond pain lies your promise
of all things made new,
we call you Hope.

Because you are the means of liberation
and the way to freedom,
we call you Deliverer.

Because you have chosen to come among us
and share our common lot,
making the hard choices, suffering and dying;
because you rose victorious, bringing new life,
we call you Redeemer.

Confident that you will hear,
we call upon you with all the names
that makes you real to us,
the names which create an image in our minds and hearts,
an image which our souls can understand and touch.
And yet we know that you are more than all of these.
Blessing and power, glory and honour be unto you, our God,
Amen.

Do you believe in the One of Many Names, God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit?

We believe in the God of Many Names.

Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

We do, with the help of God.

Renewal

John the Baptist told his disciples that he baptized them with water but the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit. As we receive the mark of our renewed baptismal vows, we recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit within us and among.

"I am God's beloved. I am baptized."

Prayer for the Baptized

Voice, Body, Spirit, we give thanks for the gathering of your people into a beloved community of belonging. By our baptism, we accept the invitation to public and faithful witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments to that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word. May it be so. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Jesus You Have Come to the Lake Shore" VU #563

***Blessing**

Go in hope, that the world will hear the Voice and know Love.
Go in joy, for the transforming work of the Spirit
has made you new.
Go in peace, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.
Be baptized in the world. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.