

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

July 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Seventh After Pentecost

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** “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

As we greet this new day,
we come together as one.
In our differences,
we come together as one.
In our uniqueness,
we come together as one.
In our offering of hospitality to others,
we come together as one.
With the Holy One,
we come together as one to worship.

***Hymn** “God, We Praise You for the Morning”

VU 415

Prayer of Approach

Holy one,
as we gather for worship this day,
may become united in your love.
May we seek wholeness in your Spirit.
Maybe find peace in your presence.

**May we absorb the kindness found in our neighbours.
May we come ready.**

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 119:105–112 *Your word is a lamp for my feet* VU 841

***Hymn** "This is God's Wondrous World" VU 296

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Presentation of Offering

* **Offertory** “Deep in Our Hearts” MV 154 v. 1

*Offertory Prayer

**Gracious God,
may we recognize all the gifts we've been given.
May the gifts we freely offer be without
expectation for anything in return.
May you bless the work of these gifts this day and in the days
ahead. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 25: 19-34 *Esau gives up his birthright for Jacob's stew.*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within

her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Matthew 13:1–9,18–23 *The parable of the Sower and the seed.*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of grace,
we come this day open to the ways you are longing to
transform our lives.

We pray for places in our lives where walls of division have
been built -- walls to keep out those who love us, or those who
want to love us. Yet we know, that by tearing
down these walls we not only offer a gift to ourselves of

forgiveness and renewal but also the potential offering of a gift to another of presence and love.

Help us let go of the things that cause us to build walls from each other and from you.

Help us to let go of any greed, jealousy or frustration that is weighing us down.

Help us let go of....

As we leave this place may we leave open to the ways your Spirit is stirring us to mend relationships and show love to others.

May our infectious encounters with you and each other bring peace to the world beyond.

Thank you, God, for your patience with us as we navigate what it means to live our lives with others who are both similar and different from us, and what it means to live out our lives in partnership with each other, the earth and with you. Amen.

***Hymn** "We Plough the Fields"

VU 520

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

See the **light is now changed**. The smoke twirls around and spreads out. **But it is still here!** It touches us.

Like the smoke, **it clings to us**.

We now **take the Light with us** as we leave and carry it to others as we go about our daily lives. **Go and live in the light**, share the light.

***Benediction**

Go from this place finding the strength to right any wrongs,
to be the peace brought to the division,
to be the love that is needed within the world.
Go in peace. Go in love. Going God. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.