

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

June 18, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Third 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** "In the Lord" (Taize) X4

**In the Lord
I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God,
Do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices,
The Lord is near;
Lift up your voices,
The Lord is near.**

Call to Worship

The Lord is in this Holy Temple, let all the children of God rejoice. We are called as family to hold up holy hands and praise the God of justice and liberation for all! Not some, but for all people regardless of where you are on life's journey or who you are in the Kingdom of God.

We are here to worship!

Hallelujah!

We are here to lift up Holy hands!

Hallelujah!

We are the Kingdom of God!

Glory Hallelujah. Let us praise the name of our God!

***Hymn** "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

VU 395

Prayer of Approach

Gracious and ever-present God, make each of us an instrument of your justice. Continue to weave us into a family, your Kingdom,

showing forth your power of healing, feeding, clothing and resurrection as evidenced through the life and ministry of your son Jesus the Christ. Bless us and our differences and sustain our courage to stand together in the face of oppression and injustice in this world. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Impart to us the knowledge and understanding to better know you on each and every step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, who came in the name of love, let us now commit to shout with the voice of triumph and proclaim the love and grace of God to all the world.

Let all the Kindom of God shout "Victory"

Over Oppression!

Shout "Victory"

Over Injustice!

Shout "Victory"

Through Jesus the Christ

Amen and Amen

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 116:1–2, 12–19

VU 836

*Hymn “Like a Rock”

MV 92

All God’s Children

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Righteous God, we find ourselves as your hands, legs, heart and spirit here in the earth. As your children, as were your disciples, we are called to make visible a Gospel of love, justice, reconciliation and healing in the world. But our concern for a just and egalitarian world too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for our humanity and our frailty as we dwell in your presence and seek transformation and new energy for the work of your ministry. Revive us again O God.

O God Revive...

our love for the Kindom!

O God Revive...

our yearning for justice!

O God Revive...

our desire for reconciliation!

O God Revive...

our need for healing!
Amen and Amen!

Assurance of God's unending Love

Just as Jesus endowed his disciples, his family, with moments of rest and amazement, it is good for us, kinfolk, to bask in the loving presence of God. Fortunately, God does not condemn us when we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into difficult, tough, unfamiliar or even mundane places and spaces. But I'm so glad that with grace and compassion, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit lifts, informs and propels us in the direction we should go to heal, deliver and resurrect.

Come Holy Spirit.

Lift us!

Come Holy Spirit.

Inform us!

Come Holy Spirit.

Propel us!

Come Holy Spirit.

Shower us with your Grace and Mercy!

Amen and Amen!

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The Holy Spirit comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion and companionship. We honour and uphold the

Kindom here on earth through our stewardship; as we are called to present our lives as a living testimony of the God who has created each one of us to be unique and minister to a world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent and treasure. Let us now uphold the glory of God by the giving of our gifts in the spirit of generosity.

We give...

to meet the needs of the Kindom!

We give...

out of the generosity of our hearts!

We give...

to further justice and peace in our world!

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "You Nourish Us"

VU 545

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kindom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 18:1–15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

Matthew 9:35—10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Hymn** “Spirit, Open My Heart”

MV 79

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

As I extinguish the candle we see the smoke twirl around and spread until we can't see it anymore. Just because we can't see God, doesn't mean God isn't here. God goes with us as we leave, much like the smoke that fills the room, that gets in our hair and on our clothes. We take the Light with us as we leave and carry it to others as we go through our daily lives.

***Blessing**

May the glory of God transform you.

May the Holy Spirit revive you.

May you embrace difference as strength.

May you reach the high and low places.

May you spread the Good News of relationship.

May you be renewed and empowered to a unity that calls us to treat one another as kin.

May thy Kindom come.

For the glory of God and the hope of the world.

Go in peace and Kinship to serve.

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

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