

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

May 14, 2023

10:30 a.m.

6th Sunday of Easter

Mothering Sunday

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** "Bless the Lord" (Taize) X4

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life.

Call to Worship

Come, worship the God who said:
as a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you. *Isaiah 66:13a*

We will come before our God.

Gather us now before you, O God,
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.
Like a mother, you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother is with her children.
As we meet today and follow your example,
protect us, support us and feed us
with your unconditional love.

Amen.

Adapted from St Anselm of Canterbury

***Hymn** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

VU 264

Prayer of Approach

**We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,
and for the special love, they have for their children.**

**We thank for the images of God that show
God's tenderness, kindness and love.**

**Help us to show your love to those who care for us,
and to the people that we meet in our lives.**

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.

In Psalm 139 we are reminded that each of us is "fearfully and wonderfully made." Each of us, is an image of the one who created us. On this Mothering Sunday, it's good to remember this.

The Images of God

written by Ruth Burgess

Young mothers
Old mothers
Grandmothers

**All mothers are made
In the image of God**

Childless women
Menopausal women
Lesbian women

**All women are made
In the image of God**

Fathers
Gay men
Trans folk
Childless men

**All men are made
In the image of God**

Divorced people
Married people
Single people

**All people are made
In the image of God**

***Hymn** “He Came Singing Love”

VU 359 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

*Hymn "He Came Singing Love"

VU 359 vv. 3, 4

A Good Enough Parent *Written by Ruth Burgess*

Father of God
protecting your child
against slander and danger
you were
a good enough parent.

Mother of God
losing your son
on the streets of Jerusalem
you were
a good enough parent.

Father God
letting your children
face pain and laughter
You are
a good enough parent.

Mother God
loving your children
through good and through evil
you are
a good enough parent.

Parenting God
father, mother and Holy Spirit
help us to take

**the loving risks
of parenthood.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We come in thanksgiving for God's great faithfulness and abiding presence. We come responding with generosity for kingdom building and to be avenues of God's provisions.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "You Nourish Us" VU 545

***Offertory Prayer**

**May these gifts be our testimony of our faithfulness to you,
Abiding God, even as we offer to you all that we are and all that
we have for your glory, honour, and praise. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Acts 17:22–31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

John 14:15–21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Anthem

Sermon “Never Left Alone”

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn** “Deep in our Hearts”

MV #154

***Blessing**

May the Love that brought us to birth by the Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Love that provides for all our needs

sustain us day by day.

May the Love whose steadfast care is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and accept all.

May the love of God surround you,
the passion of Jesus inspire you,
and the wisdom of the Spirit guide your
thoughts and actions. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Over My Head"

MV #88 X2

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.