

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

November 5, 2023

Remembrance Sunday

10:30 a.m.

23 Sunday 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 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

Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and members of the Regional Police forces who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service to Canada before self. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them. And so, on this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember them.

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Once there was someone who said **such amazing** things and did **such wonderful** things that people began to follow him. But they didn't know who he was. So one day they simply had to ask him, "Who are you?" He replied, "I am the Light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Gather Us In" MV #7 (repeat)

***Call to Worship**

From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.

In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty, **we remember that we are not alone.**

We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

Let us worship God together!

***Hymn** "For the Healing of the Nations" VU #678

Prayer of Approach

On this day of memory we gather to sing and to pray, **we remember the past and look to the future.**

On this day when the guns once fell silent, **we come before you God, seeking your peace.**

On this day of hope in the face of terror,

**we come before you God, praying with all our hearts -
God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.
Open our eyes and the eyes of the nations
to find a different path through the disagreements
of life in this world.**

In this time of story, song, and prayer,
may we be re-committed to being a people of peace, true peace.
May we catch a vision of how the world could live together.
And so we echo the old prayers,
make us channels of your peace.
Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us!

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who 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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Act of Remembrance

***Hymn**

"O Canada"

VU #524

Roll Call of Those Who Died in the Wars

Boer War (1899-1902)

World War I (1914-1918)

World War II (1939-1945)

Korean War (1950 – 1953)

The *Last Post* is a bugle call that was traditionally used to tell the troops at an army camp that the last guard post had been inspected and the rest of the soldiers could go to sleep for the night. As it marked the end of the day, it came to also symbolize those who had died in service and calls us into remembrance during the two minutes of silence (symbolizing the night). In contrast, the *Rouse* is a morning wake-up bugle call and came to symbolize the awakening to a better world. Sometimes, a bagpipe lament will be played after the two minutes of silence, prior to the *Rouse*.

The Last Post

Two Minutes of Silence

Rouse

Act of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.

We will remember them.

Placing of the Wreath

Poem “In Flanders Fields” By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

***"God Save the King"**

Children may retire to Sunday school

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say “Lest we forget.” Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us...

Silent Prayer and Reflection

Words of Assurance

Jesus said, “God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (*John 3:17*) Receive the Good News: in Christ, we are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Each day of our lives we are presented with opportunities to respond to God’s love and give of ourselves in faithful service. There are many ways to give, each according to our own abilities, with all gifts working together for the sake of the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God. You are now invited to give, as you are able, to support the work of this community of faith.

Offertory “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” VU #541

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own
fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, RCMP and Regional Police forces who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day ... restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways of peace. Amen.

***Hymn** “God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace” VU #676

***Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.
But it is still here! It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.
Go cradle and share the **Light. Share** it to others as we go about your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

***Benediction**

(Based on Ephesians 6)

Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.
Take up the whole armour of God and remain steadfast.
Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace” VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.