

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

October 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Twentieth 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

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship and wonder.

It is good to be here.

It is good to be together.

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 asked 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** “Rise Up, Rise Up” MV 130

Call to Worship

We gather in God’s holy presence, where we are embraced with grace.

Here God will transform us into disciples.

We praise God, who yearns for justice for the last and the least.

Here God will write compassion on our hearts.

We give thanks to God for God’s persistent love that seeks us out.

Here God will breathe the Word of Life into our lives, and so we will praise our God!

***Hymn** “We Praise You, O God” VU 218

Prayer of Approach

**God of all time and space,
you have called people to meet you over the centuries,
in many different places, in many different ways.
We praise you for welcoming us, and receiving us as we are.
You hear our prayers and claim us as your own.
In this hour of worship, send your Spirit upon us
to enliven our faith and guide our footsteps
in the way of Life.**

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 23

VU# 749

***Hymn** "This Little Light of Mine" All God's Children Sing vv. 1,2,3

All God's Children

Hymn "This Little Light of Mine" All God's Children Sing vv. 4,5

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The Apostle Paul urges us to think on things that are honourable and just, commendable and true. To share what we

have is honourable. Our gifts can help create justice and work for truth to prevail. So trust your gifts to God and know they are pleasing to God.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Will Take What You Offer”

MV 196

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we offer you part of the abundance you share with us. Bless our gifts and work through them, so that others will know your generosity and be touched by your love through the kindness we can offer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 32:1–14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and

cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.' They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I

have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Matthew 22:1–14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where

there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of Truth and Wisdom,
we give you thanks for all the people throughout our lives
who taught us what is trustworthy and true,
and shared wisdom that has shaped the way we live.
We remember our favourite teachers in school and church,
in college and university, in training programs and instructional
opportunities.

Thank you for everyone who has the knack for teaching.
Give all students, of every age and in every endeavour,
a desire to learn for the sake of the world, not just for the sake of
finishing a program.

We pray for all who contribute to the life of learning at the
Colleges of our Church.

In these challenging times for ministry,
guide all who teach, all who learn and all who support learning
to explore traditions of our faith and new technologies with
wisdom and imagination.

Awaken in us all the trust that you will lead us into the future you are creating, and the willingness to learn when to keep and when to cast away past practices and new experiments in faithful witness.

We give you thanks for all those who taught us by example, parents and grandparents, friends and neighbours, colleagues and even strangers met by chance. Help us cherish life lessons and build on them in new situations, sharing them when we can.

Keep us open to learn new things about our faith, about life, and about what you are calling us to do.

We thank you for Jesus and his teaching, and the compassion he showed for his disciples when they were slow to learn. Give us patience and compassion when we are teaching something we've learned, and make us good listeners so we learn from others' experience.

In this time of silence, hear us as we remember people and places on our hearts this day. Amen.

***Hymn** "Your Hand, O God, Has Guided"

VU 274

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**

Go in faithfulness, cherishing the lessons of love you have learned from Christ and the people, so that your life will speak with that love.

And may God, the Source of Love,
Christ, the Face of Love,
and the Spirit, Love in action

bless you now, and go with you into each new day. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Deep In Our Hearts” MV 154

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.