

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

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth After Pentecost

Creation 1

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** "Rise Up, Rise Up"

MV 130

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song.

We will worship God, our Maker!

Let us praise God with song and dance,

for God is gracious and loving!

Let us bring God glory and honour,

for God deserves our praise.

***Hymn** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

VU 326

Prayer of Approach

God of grace and glory,

your creative power is beyond imagining.

Your love is wider than the whole universe;

your love reaches beyond the highest heavens;

your wisdom lies deeper than the fathoms of the sea.

Maker of all things,

you became one of us in Jesus the Christ,

walking the roads we take each day.

Through your Spirit,

you are present with us in every time and place,

to comfort and challenge us.

We worship you, Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

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 149

VU 873

***Hymn** "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

VU 357

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God calls us to show our love through the kindness we offer our neighbours. Our offering will spread the gifts God has given us to neighbours in need. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “What Can I Do?”

MV 191

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, receive these gifts, offered in a spirit of generosity and humility. Bless and use them for the work that you long to do in the world you love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They

shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done

for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of love,
Creator of heaven and earth,
we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of this life.
For making us in your image to love and care for one another,
we give you thanks.
For the gift of Christ, who redeems and guides us,
and who gives us a pattern for everyday living,
we praise you.
For the work of the Spirit, who works in us, through us and
beyond us,
We praise you.
Hear us now as we pray for situations where your love and grace
are sorely needed.

We pray for the church in this place and around the world,
facing so many new challenges to respond to so many enduring
needs...

We pray for this beautiful planet, the fragile home we share with
all living things...

For children and youth who worry about the future of the planet and their place in that future...

For those who govern in this town/area and the nations of the world, that they may find the wisdom and courage to do justice for all in the decisions they make...

For the homeless and the hungry, for the unemployed and the uncertain, and for all who struggle with daily decisions for their families and their future...

For those who mourn, for those who face illness or isolation, and for all whose situations we carry on our hearts this day...

God with us, we thank you for your all-embracing love that touches all life and each life, and keeps us in communion with those dear to us who now live with you. Amen.

***Hymn** "Spirit God, Be Our Breath"

MV 150

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**

The Apostle Paul teaches that we owe no one anything but to love one another. So go with God's love in your hearts to share that love with everyone you meet.

And so may God, the Source of Love,
Christ, the Face of Love in action,
and the Spirit, the transforming Power of love,
go with you to bless you
and move through you to heal and bless God's world. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Deep In Our Hearts" MV 154 v.1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.