

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

April 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

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 indeed 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 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

As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you."

We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

***Hymn** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks”

VU #179

Prayer of Approach

Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbours. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us.

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.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 133

VU #856

Hymn “Jesus, Teach Brave and Bold”

VU #605

All God’s Children

Hymn “Jesus, Teach Brave and Bold”

VU #605

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. We have life because of the Spirit’s presence with us. Let us join in God’s abundance, giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands” VU #537

***Offertory Prayer**

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Acts 4:32–35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If

we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the

mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Thank you, loving God, for your renewing presence in our lives,
and for the many ways you make yourself known to us:
in words spoken in peace,
in actions that embody love,
in creation that awakens wonder within us,

and in worship that inspires faith and understanding.

We pray for those who are feeling fearful, worried, or overwhelmed, in these days of economic pressure and uncertainty. *(Brief pause.)*

Lord Jesus,

reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for those who face violence and unrest each day, in countries around the world and in our own community. *(Brief pause.)*

Lord Jesus,

reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our national, provincial, and municipal leaders as they seek solutions to the challenges in our common life. *(Brief pause.)*

Give them wisdom and compassion.

Lord Jesus,

reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our congregation, for churches in our community, and for Christians around the world, especially those facing persecution and danger. *(Brief pause.)*

Lord Jesus,

reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our neighbours, especially those struggling with rising costs and scarce housing, and those who know rejection and discrimination. *(Brief pause.)*

Lord Jesus,

reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for those who are ill, in pain or in grief.

We remember before you, silently or aloud, those on our hearts today:

Bring them comfort and strength,
Lord Jesus,
reveal to them your risen presence.

God our Maker, hear our prayers,
and use us in ways we may not yet even imagine
to respond to those around us with the love we see in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***Hymn** “Jesus, Stand Among Us”

VU #396

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**

Beloved, go in peace, and go "be" peace! Receive the Holy Spirit
deep in your being, and share your new life in Christ with the
world! Amen!

***Choral Benediction** “Go Now in Peace”

VU #964

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.