

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

March 31, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Resurrection 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

Processional Hymn "Thine Is the Glory" VU #173

Welcome

In Jesus' name, welcome!
First-time participant or one who's been here many days;
child or elder or somewhere in-between;
stewards, caretakers, disciples of Jesus, children of God—
neighbours all, loved and loving.
Welcome. Welcome in Christ's name -
Welcome to the table of the Lord!

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayers (use whole or part) in this Liturgy is from Transformed Life written by Pat Bennett (Iona Community, UK). Used with permission. 1

Communion Service is taken from the Book of Alternative Services, Anglican Church.

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)

Call to Worship

Leader Early in the morning,
Females fearful but faithful,
Males dubious and doubting,
All **we come to the garden...**
Females We expected only silence but we heard the voice of
angels;
Males we did not understand
but we found our hope rekindled;
All: **we came to attend to a corpse**
but instead we countered life!
Alleluia!

***Hymn** "Christ is Alive"

VU #158

Prayer of Approach

Watching at the cross
we see the powerful reality
of a life directed by love...

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**Risen Jesus - as we meet you
in imagination,
standing in the graveyard,
may fear be thrown off,
our lives energized,
and our feet follow yours
in the service of justice.**

Waiting by the tomb
we glimpse the challenging potential
of a life constrained by love...

**Risen Jesus - we meet you
in the world,
incarnated in others,
may selfishness be defied,
our hearts expanded,
and our hands joined with yours in the
service of liberation.**

Walking in the garden
we encounter the vibrant possibilities
of a life reborn through love...

**Risen Jesus - as we meet you
beyond time,
present in bread and wine,**

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**may what is wounded did
be healed through love
and what is mortal
be transformed by life
in the service of your Kin-dom. Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 VU #837 Parts 1, 2, & 3

***Hymn** “Shout for God” AGCS #48 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “Shout for God” AGCS #48 vv. 3, 4

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Jesus, through you committed living
and dying,
you show us the possibilities of love
and reveal the first fruits
of your Kin-dom;

**We confess that all too often
we have let self-preservation smother
and defy the rule of justice.**

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Silence / Kyrie (*sung*)

Jesus, by your patient waiting
in the tomb,
you show us the possibilities of love
and reveal the first fruits
of your Kin-dom;

**We confess that all too easily
we have let self-interests out-argue love
and restrict the reach of liberation.**

Silence / Kyrie(*sung*)

Jesus, in your paradoxical rising
from the dead,
you show the possibilities of love
and reveal the first fruits
of your Kin-dom;

**We confess that all too
readily we have let self-doubt keep love
chained and deny the possibility
of transformation.**

Silence / Kyrie(*sung*)

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Jesus - Incarnate Love,
committed, patient and free --
your resurrection reminds us
that the graveyard is also
where life begins again:

**Meet us now in our places of death:
teach and transform us
that our lives too might witness to the
possibilities of love,
and bear the fruits of your Kin-dom. Amen.**

Words of Grace

We believe that Jesus -
God unbound -
directed by love, accepted restraint
and lived a fully human life
to begin the healing of the world.

Alleluia! With wonder we affirm it!

We believe that Jesus -
God unbounded -
sustained by love, accept it restraint
and died on the cross to draw the sting of death.

Alleluia! With wonder we affirm it!

We believe that Jesus -
God unbounded -

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empowered by love, accept it restraint
and was entombed
to break the grip of evil.

Alleluia! With wonder we affirm it!

We believe that Jesus -
God unbounded -
directed, sustained and empowered
by love,
threw off all restraint
and rose from the dead
to transform the world through life.

Alleluia! With wonder we affirm it!

Sung Response “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958 (X2)

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks”

MV #187

***Offertory Prayer**

**O God, we remember that weeping may endure for a night,
but joy comes early in the morning. We pray that these**

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gifts of blessing might be a sign of the love, light and glory of our God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. We are thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:1–18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place

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by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

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Anthem “Come Proclaim the Victory”

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
for the gift of a world full of wonder,
and for our life which comes from you.

By your power you sustain the universe.

Glory to you forever and ever.

You created us to love you with all our heart,
and to love each other as ourselves,
but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your child,
you bring healing to our world
and gather us into one great family.
Therefore, with all who serve you
on earth and in heaven,

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we praise your wonderful name, as we sing,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Bless it is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks and praise, loving God,
because in sending Jesus, your son, to us
you showed us how much you love us.
He cares for the poor and the hungry.
He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back
but overcame hatred with love.
On the cross
he defeated the power of sin and death.
By raising him from the dead
you show us the power of your love
to bring new life to all your people.
Glory to you forever and ever.

On the night before he gave up his life for us,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them,
saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you."

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After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is a cup of my blood,
the blood of the new covenant and eternal covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me."
Glory to you forever and ever.

Gracious God,
with this bread and wine
we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus,
and we offer ourselves to you in him.
Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
that we may know the presence of Jesus
in the breaking of bread,
and share in the life
of the family of your children.
Glory to you forever and ever.

Creator God, you call us to be your servants;
fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that all the world may gather in joy
at the table of your Kin-dom.

We sing your praise, Almighty God,
through Jesus, our Lord,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.

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The Lord's Prayer

With Jesus, we share in the ancient 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.**

Lord, we die with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.
We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.

Breaking of the bread and pouring of the wine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God

**we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your son
Jesus Christ.**

**May we, who share his body,
live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup,
bring life to others;
we, whom the spirit lights,
give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth lived to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Hymn** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

VU #468

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.

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***Benediction**

For those still following

Christ is risen!

For those, like Peter, still denying

Christ is risen!

For those, like Caiaphas, still controlling

Christ is risen!

For those, like Mary, still searching

Christ is risen!

For those, like Pilate, still washing their hands

Christ is risen!

For those, like Thomas, still doubting

Christ is risen!

For those, like Judas, still betraying

Christ is risen!

For those, like Mary, still anointing

Christ is risen!

Go in peace, to tell the world

Christ is risen!

And may the love that has newly defeated death
be with you, not just for now,
but forever.

Go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude *Please stand as you are able.

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