

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

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Sixth 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 joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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 Presentation

***Introit** "This is the Day That God has Made"

VU #175

***Call to Worship**

Listen to the world sing God's praises!

The sound of children laughing, the feel of a gentle breeze, the taste of a home cooked meal, the fresh smell of morning.

God steadfast love is everywhere around us.

In friendship restored, in reconciled relations, in love refreshed.

God steadfast love is everywhere around us.

That God's presence might be known through us in all the earth.

In this moment, in this time of worship may God presence be boldly felt! Come, then with open arms and hearts, let us worship our God.

***Hymn**

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

VU #211

Prayer of Approach

Creating Spirit,

**we join with the chorus of all of creation
to celebrate your wondrous deeds.**

**Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony,
so that we may contribute to the world you are already creating.**

**All this we pray in the name of Jesus,
who revealed what is possible through love.**

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.**

Hymn “Come to My Heart” VU #661

All God’s Children

Hymn “Come to My Heart” VU #661

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

VU #818

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Anthem "Here We Stand Lord"

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

It is one thing to memorize the words of Jesus. But it is another thing to let those words transform us and rearrange our priorities and our lives. What is it that God is inviting us to rearrange about our priorities? What is it that we want to offer to the Church and to the world as a practice of God's love? We give as we are able,

we give as we are call. More than anything else, God loves a cheerful giver!

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

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

In deep gratitude for life and for all the blessings that come from you, we offer back to you some measure of what we have been given. Accept our offerings and use them and use us for the building up of your reign in this world. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of our lives and our loving,
We thank you for the signs of resurrection that are all around us,
showing that life is stronger than death.
Give us the grace to recognize and embrace the gifts of new life
that your love makes possible for us all,
as we pray for your resurrecting power to renew the world amid
all its challenges.

God of home and family,
today we thank you for our families,
especially for our mothers and grandmothers.
We are grateful for their love and attention, their hard work
and the deep hope they have cherished for each one of us.
We honour before you each mother, grandmother and great
grandmother
who has died; and we pray for all those who have felt isolated
from their families in these months of pandemic. Reunite us in
your love.

God of connections and compassion,
Today we thank you for our friends and relations,
for the neighbours and fellow citizens who help to make our lives
complete.

We thank you for smiles shared, helping hands offered,
commitments honoured. And we pray for all those around us who
are facing particular challenges this day... **Restore our hope with
your love.**

God of courage and new possibility,
Today we pray for all those who have felt life or love slipping
through their fingers in the times of distancing we've had to
endure,
and for those who have struggled with their physical or mental
health,
whatever the reason. We pray for communities trying to sort out
how to recover from the pandemic and for all those worried
about their personal future. **Encourage us with your love.**

God of forgiveness and renewal:
Today we pray for those whose relationships are need of healing
and for all who work for peace and reconciliation in the face of
deep divisions. We pray for families, churches, communities and
countries facing conflict, and ask that your Spirit open hearts and
minds to deeper understanding. **Reconcile us through your love.**

***Hymn** "Praise the Lord with Sound of Trumpet" VU# 245

***Blessing**

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to
go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. This is my commandment,

that you love one another as I have loved you. I have said these things to you so that my job may be in you and that your job may be complete. Go and be that love in the world!

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Choral Benediction “Go in Love”

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.