

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

April 20, 20225

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

Hymn "Thine Is the Glory"

VU #173

Welcome

Christ is Risen.

He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

In the name of Jesus—welcome.

Whether your feet have just found this path
or you've walked it many seasons,
whether your hands are small or weathered with time,
whether you know your place here,
or are still wondering—

you are neighbour,
you are beloved,
you are welcome.

Come as you are,
to the table that waits with grace.
This is the welcome of Christ.
This is the table of the Lord.

Announcements

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)

Call to Worship

At the break of dawn,
as the sky blushed with the first hint of light and shadows clung
stubbornly to the earth,
creation exhaled a quiet, persistent hallelujah.

**And resurrection reeked of soil and sorrow.
Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.**

At the break of dawn,
with tear-streaked faces and hearts heavy with loss,
the women dared to hum a hallelujah shaped by grief and fierce
devotion.

And the silence of the tomb echoed with questions and

mourning.

Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At the break of dawn,
when hope had long since lost its voice
and the promise of morning felt like a forgotten dream,
the earth stirred and sang a hallelujah fierce with longing.

**And the rising tasted like broken bread and whispered joy.
Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.**

At the break of dawn,
as the world groans with new anguish and age-old injustice,
we to gather—defiant and devoted—to sing a hallelujah of
freedom and grace.

And this Easter rings with protest and praise.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

***Hymn** “Christ is Alive”

VU #158

Prayer of Approach

**Resurrecting God,
you meet us not where we have it all together,
but in the quiet ache of an empty tomb—
where sorrow and wonder walk hand in hand.**

**On this Easter morning,
in the strange mingling of hallelujah and heartache,
remind us—again—that love is stronger than death,
that life, real life, refuses to stay buried.**

**In a world full of shadows that speak with power,
shine through with your persistent, improbable light.
Startle us, Holy One—
with joy we didn't see coming,
with hope we'd forgotten how to hold.**

**This we dare to ask,
in the name of the Risen Christ,
whose path we follow,
and whose name we speak with trembling hope. Amen.**

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

Hymn “Jesus Loves Me; Easter Tells Me So”

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

How often we have grown tired, drawn under by the noise, the
churn and spin of a world too quick to forget the slow, steady
work of Love, the long patience of Justice.

God, have mercy.

How often we have turned away—not out of cruelty, but out of
fear, or habit—when the truth came from voices we had not
learned to trust. And so we missed it, the wisdom born of

suffering.

Christ, have mercy.

How often we have called holy words idle tales when they came from the edge of things—from those who live closest to the wound and still dare to dream. We have not always recognized a future being born right before our eyes.

God, have mercy. Amen.

Words of Grace

How many times has God met our failure with mercy,
and named us beloved once more.

How many times has Love unfastened the chains
and opened the way toward newness.

Thanks be to the One

who rises with us,

again and again. We are free.

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are God's!

Sung Response “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958 (X2)

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

As people of the resurrection,
we are called to live not from fear,
but from the deep well of new life.

In every moment, the Spirit invites us

to turn from all that diminishes
and to align our hearts with all that gives birth.

So now, let us offer what we have—
our gifts, our courage, our longing—
to the shaping of a world
where justice is the ground beneath every footstep,
and Love is the light that leads us on.

Come.

Bring the small seed of your hope.

Together, we roll away the stones.

Your morning offering will now be presented.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “We Give Our Thanks”

MV #187

***Offertory Prayer**

To the unfolding witness of new life,

God, open us.

To the sacred work of building a new world,

God, ground us.

To the unyielding power of love,

God, strengthen us.

For the rising call of faith,

God, guide us.

Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter, verses 1 to 12.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the feast of resurrection—
a table prepared in the shadow of the empty tomb,
where broken bread whispers of wholeness
and poured cup sings of unending life.

Come, all who long for new beginnings,
all who thirst for grace, all who hunger for hope.
The Risen One is our host—
and all are welcome.

**We come to the table of life,
to meet the Christ who lives again.**

Passing of the Peace

Before we break bread together,
let us share a sign of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the God of resurrection.

Let us give thanks to the Living God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, it is good, it is joy—
to give thanks to you, O God of glory and grace.
When all was chaos, you sang life into being.
When we wandered, you led us.
When we were bound, you freed us.
When death closed in,
you cracked the stone and rolled it away.
You raised Jesus from the grave
and with him, hope beyond despair,
light beyond shadow, life beyond death.

**By water and Spirit,
you birth us into your risen Body.
By your breath, we live again.**

And so with the women at the tomb,
with the disciples on the road,

with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
we sing your praise in the unending hymn:

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

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

Institution Narrative

We remember the night before he gave himself up—
not to despair, but to love's deep purpose—
Jesus gathered with his friends.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and said:
*"This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."*

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and said:
*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for many.
Whenever you drink it, remember me."*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Come, Holy Spirit—
rise in this bread and awaken this cup.
Make them for us the Body and Life of Christ,
that we, too, may rise with him—
renewed, forgiven, and made whole.

Bind us in love that does not die.
Open our eyes to your presence among us.
And send us from this holy place
as bearers of resurrection hope
to a world still longing for good news.

Alleluia! Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

This is the bread of new life,
broken yet rising.

This is the cup of promise,
emptied and overflowing.

In these gifts, the Risen Christ is among us.
Alleluia!

Sharing of the Elements

“The body of Christ—Risen for you.”
“The cup of life—Alleluia!”

After Communion Prayer

We give thanks, O God,
for the quiet mystery of risen bread
and the grace that spills like morning light.
In this meal, we taste the presence of Christ,
alive, here among us,
feeding us with the joy of new life.

Now, send us out,
to be your body in the world—
bold in love,
steadfast in hope,
and shining with the light of resurrection.

Through Christ, our Risen 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.

*Benediction

This blessing comes at early dawn,
when the world is still held in the quiet arms of night,

its breath lingering on our skin.

Hallelujah. Even now, new life stirs.

This blessing rises through grief,
when sorrow still clings like a shadow,
and hope has not yet found its voice.

Hallelujah. Even now, resurrection whispers.

This blessing calls from the empty places,
where questions outnumber answers
and fear turns to awe, turns to joy.

Hallelujah. Even now, we rise.

Christ is risen indeed.

Go in peace, to rise in protest and praise,
until all creation witnesses, knows, and rejoices
in new life. **Amen.**

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be with You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.