

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

**April 5, 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

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

Early in the morning, while the world is still quiet,  
**we gather.**

With grief we carry, and hope we cannot yet name,  
**we gather.**

Like the women at the tomb, drawn near by love rather than  
certainty,  
**we gather.**

The stone has been rolled away.  
**Life is not finished with us.**

In fear and in joy, in questions and in trust,  
**we come to meet the risen presence of God among us.**

\*Hymn "Christ is Alive"

VU #158

### Prayer of Approach

**Holy Mystery,**

**we gather as those who carry our stories,  
our griefs, our hopes, our uncertainties.  
Like those who came to the tomb at dawn,  
we come not with certainty, but with longing,  
trusting that you meet us in the midst of our searching.**

**Open our awareness to your presence among us,  
and draw us into a deeper attentiveness to one another and to  
you.**

**May this time become a place of grace,  
where fear and joy can dwell together,  
and where new life is quietly received.**

**Amen.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

VU #837

**\*Hymn** “Shout for God”

VU #246, vv. 1, 2

**All God’s Children**

**Hymn** “Shout for God”

VU #246, vv. 3, 4

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

**Holy One,  
source of all life and light,  
we pause in your presence.**

**We confess the ways we have turned aside from your path:  
in our words that have wounded,**

**in our silence when we might have spoken,  
in our fear that has kept us distant from love.**

**We have not always stayed near to what is true,  
nor have we always trusted the slow work of your Spirit within  
us.**

**Forgive us, gentle God.**

**Draw us back into your way of attentiveness and courage,  
and awaken in us hearts that are open to your renewing grace.**

**Amen.**

*Silence*

### **Words of Grace**

Hear these words of comfort and hope:

The mercy of God is as deep as the sea  
and as constant as the rising sun.

In Christ, love meets us where we are,  
forgives what has been,  
and leads us forward into new life.

Be at peace.

You are held in grace.

**Sung Response** “Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958 (X2)

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Generosity**

As the women brought what they had to the tomb,  
so we are invited to bring our own gifts.

We give not because we have everything figured out,  
but because we have received and continue to receive  
grace.

Let us offer what we have in trust,  
that even small gifts may become part of God's work of life  
and hope among us.

## **Offertory**

### **\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory "We Give Our Thanks"**

MV #187

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Generous God,  
we bring these gifts with grateful hearts.**

**Receive them, we pray,  
as signs of our willingness to participate in your ongoing  
work of love, justice, and renewal.**

**Bless what is offered here,  
and bless the hands and lives from which these gifts come.**

**May they be used to strengthen community,  
to support those in need,  
and to reflect your presence in the world.**

**As we give, shape us also to live more openly,  
more attentively, and more courageously in your way.**

**Amen.**

## Listening for the Word

### Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of wisdom,  
as the scriptures are read and heard among us,  
quiet our assumptions and open our attention.

Help us to listen not only with our minds,  
but with our lives.

May these words draw us nearer to truth,  
nearer to compassion,  
and nearer to the living presence you continue to reveal.

In the reading, in the silence, in the sharing,  
may we be attentive to what is being spoken to us today.

Amen.

### Sacred Scripture

The Holy Gospel according to  
St. Matthew, the 28th Chapter, verses 1 to 10.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **Matthew 28:1-10**

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And  
suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord,  
descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat  
on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white

as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my friends to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

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

### **Anthem**

**Sermon**      *Near Enough to Notice*

### **Responding to the Word**

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

The risen Christ meets us in peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

## Easter Communion Liturgy

### **Great Thanksgiving**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Holy One,  
for in the mystery of life and death and new life,  
you continue to meet your people with grace and presence.

At dawn, in fear and in joy,

you met the women at the tomb.

You rolled away what seemed final,  
and opened a future not yet imagined.

You have been present in every age,  
in moments of sorrow and moments of renewal,  
drawing people near to your life-giving way.

And so, with those who have gone before us,  
with all creation, and with the communities of faith throughout  
time and place, we join our voices in praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God,  
source of life and light,  
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**

On the night before he was to give himself up,  
Jesus gathered with his companions.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them,  
saying:

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to  
them, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my life’s blood,  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin.  
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

### **Memorial Acclamation**

Therefore we remember...  
the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We remember the love that could not be contained by  
death, and the presence that continues among us. We  
proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

Holy One,  
send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup,  
and upon us who share them.

May these gifts become for us  
a sign of your sustaining presence,  
nourishing us in body, mind, and spirit.

As we receive them,  
shape us into a people who live with attentive hearts,  
courageous presence,  
and open hands.

May we be drawn deeper into your way of love,  
and sent into the world renewed in hope and compassion.

Amen.

## **The Breaking and Sharing of Bread**

The bread of life.      **(Bread is Broken)**

The cup of blessing.    **(Cup is poured)**

These are gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us receive them with gratitude and trust.

## **Prayer after Communion**

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for this shared meal,  
for the nourishment of your presence among us,  
and for the quiet ways you meet us in ordinary moments.**

**Send us now into the world  
with attentive hearts and open spirits.**

**Like those who first encountered the risen presence,  
may we carry forward a quiet and resilient hope—  
not as certainty we must prove,  
but as life we have tasted and now embody.**

**Amen.**

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

**VU #468**

### **Changing of the Light**

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.

### **\*Easter Benediction**

May the light of this new day  
rest gently upon your hearts.

May the courage of the women at the tomb  
steady your steps in times of uncertainty,  
and may you know, in quiet and deep ways,  
that life is not finished with you.

May fear and joy find their place within you,  
and may hope rise in you again and again  
as you walk the paths before you.

And may the presence of the risen Christ  
go ahead of you, beside you, and within you,  
guiding you into love, compassion, and peace.

### **Sending Forth**

Go now in attentive, courageous presence-  
not rushing past the world,  
but remaining near to where life is unfolding.

Notice the small signs of grace.

Stay close to those who grieve and those who hope.

Walk gently, love deeply, and trust that new life  
is already moving among you.

And may the peace of Christ go with you,  
today and always.

Amen.

### **\*Choral Benediction**

### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.