

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

August 23, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Eleventh after Pentecost

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.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

Greeting

In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit. Welcome! All are welcome here. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

Introit "Where Two or Three Are Gathered" MV #14 X3

Call to Worship

Who do you say I am?

**Some say Moses, some say Elijah,
prophet who comes with a word from the Holy.**

Who do you say I am?

**Some say Messiah, some say “Human One”,
healer who shares the life of the Holy.**

Who do you say I am?

**Some say Emmanuel, God-with-us,
some say Wisdom, teacher of truth
some say Ruler of Peace, Bringer of Justice.**

And you, who have gathered here today, who do you say I am?

**You are the Body to which we belong;
we are your members, each needed, treasured.**

**In you we are transformed
into your Hope, your Love, your Vision.**

**You are the One we long for, the One we seek here today,
the One who empowers our lives.**

Come, let us worship!

Hymn “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” VU #245

Prayer of Approach

**God of the ages, enable us to know your nearness, as we
become aware of fire in our hearts during this hour of worship.
Gift us with strength and faith, we pray, so that after worship
ends, we may, with renewed hearts, continue your service in the
world. Through the living Christ we pray. Amen.**

We share in the ancient prayer Jesus prayed ...

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.

Psalm 124

VU #848

Hymn "Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome"

MV #137

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Prayer of Confession

Mother God, stand on the birthstool with us.
The pain is too much to bear.
Our world has dealt so "shrewdly" with your people
that your renewal seems impossible.
Fears of economic uncertainty confront us all
and seem to limit our choices;
Fears of immigrants and strangers in our midst
seem to require walls;
Fears about changing traditions

seem to require blocks to new family expressions.
We lament, Mother God, but we don't push through the fear.
Let us open ourselves to labour with you.
Stand on the birthstool with us.
Push us to labour in your love.

Assurance of God's Unending Love

The God of Moses and Miriam, "I AM WHO I AM",
makes a way for you. God holds your hand and insists upon life.
You are a channel of this love, now and always.
Praise be to the God of life who is, now and forever!

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Offertory Invitation

The Letter to the Romans reminds us that we all have gifts to share. When we give, we give generously. When we feel compassion for those in need, we give cheerfully. Let us share what we have to offer to God generously and cheerfully, so that God's good work may continue.

Offertory

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

O God, bless the offerings we make today, as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. Keep our hearts free of worry so that we can give what we have freely, trusting your Spirit to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be

bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Anthem “Going Home”

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Life-giving God, you equip your people with gifts to work for your kingdom, bringing justice and peace to every land and community.

Through your Spirit, O God, you give the gift of prophecy. Help us to use this gift to speak words of justice and truth into situations where people are exploited or treated unfairly. Guide our actions so that we might influence change for good in the world, and bring hope to the hopeless.

You give the gift of serving, O God, in the example of your Child Jesus. Help us to use this gift to serve those who have been cast aside by structures of power and privilege. Increase our awareness of injustice and our dedication to work with those who suffer its effects. May the abundance we share in our country touch every life and community in this land.

God of wisdom, you give the gift of teaching. Help us to use this gift to ensure that every child has access to education and opportunity. Be with every teacher and every student in the coming months as schools adapt to the challenges of COVID-19. Support creative teaching and diligent learning in every school and centre for learning.

God of hope, you give the gift of encouragement. Help us to use this gift to hearten all who are struggling in these difficult days. Bless us with words and actions to bring comfort to all who mourn, to those coping with mental or physical illness, and to any who feel isolated or left behind.

God of purpose and promise, you give the gift of leadership. Help us to use this skill to build up our communities and model respectful ways of living and loving. Show us how our churches can be places of support within our neighbourhoods.

God of love, you give the gift of kindness. Help us be kind to all who cross our paths, even those who anger or upset us. Teach us to be forgiving and reconciling in all our relationships. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" VU # 575

Blessing

Go boldly into God's love with ready hands and an open heart to realize the possibilities of God's Kin-dom in this world. Go out to bring love and justice into a world of hurt and pain, knowing that God is always with us. Amen.

Choral Benediction "We Are One"

Postlude