

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

December 6, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent -- Peace

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

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Quiet Preparation for Worship (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

Bible Presentation

Introit "Prepare the Way of the Lord" VU #10

Call to Worship

Comfort, comfort all my people.

God invites us to return and reconciles us into God's heart.

Comfort, comfort all my people.

God hears our cries for justice and offers restoration of hope.

Comfort, comfort all my people.

God knows our troubled hearts and speaks peace, gently

healing.

Comfort, comfort all my people.

God knows our uncertainties and offers the word that is steady and sure.

We come together to worship God.

Our guide, our hope, our source of peace and comfort.

Advent Candle Lighting -- Peace

Voice 1: In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter around a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding.

Voice 2: But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle.

Voice 1: Peace is what the prophets foretold.

Voice 2: Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to live peace into our lives and world.

Two candles are lit

Voice 1: In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace.

Voice 2: Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive and search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.

Hymn

“Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness”

VU #28

Prayer of Approach

**O, God
you call to us from the wild places,
you call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts.
We come in answer to your invitation.
We come to pray, to praise,
to learn of your love for all creation.
Reveal your abundant love that we may experience it together -
inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time.**

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.**

Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

VU #802

Hymn

“Are You a Shepherd?”

MV #126 vv. 1 & 2

All God’s Children

Hymn

“Are You a Shepherd?”

MV #126 v. 3

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God there are many things that block our path to a relationship with you. Some of these obstacles are put in our way by others. When that happens, we can be angry and stubborn, refusing to find another way, and we find it difficult to forgive.

We turned back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort.

Sometimes the obstacles in our paths are of our own making, when we choose not to live the way Jesus taught and modeled. We may choose to do things our own way, and trip ourselves up.

We turned back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort.

There are times when we put obstacles in the path of others; our actions or our words don't help people see your presence in the world and in their lives. We are sorry, O God.

We turned back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort.

Silence

Assurance of God's Love

Hear these words of comfort and assurance: God speaks tenderly to God's people, saying, "Comfort, comfort."

God feeds us like a shepherd feeds sheep, gathering us in strong, gentle arms of love and carrying us safely home. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

In struggle and in joy, God is faithful to us.
We bring forth our offerings – our tithes,
our treasures, our least coins –
to demonstrate our faithfulness to God.

Offertory

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

VU #55 v. 4

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of comfort and new beginnings, we turn back to you again, and bring to you these gifts of money, of creativity and of ourselves, asking that you bless them, and us. May these gifts bring comfort to many. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who

is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“All the Earth is Waiting”

VU #5

Blessing

**May you know God's peace in words and ways of comfort.
May you show God's peace in words and ways of comfort.
May God's peace and hope shine in all the world. Amen.**

Postlude