

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

July 5, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Fifth 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

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

Introit "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Call to Worship

God is all mercy and grace—
Slow to anger and rich in love.

God is good to one and all—
Everything God does is filled with grace.

God provides help for us in moments of trouble—
And gives a fresh start to those who feel like giving up.

Come, let us worship God!
Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

Hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” VU #232

Prayer of Approach and Confession

How wonderful are your works, O God!
How great are your ways!
You are generous in love and kindness,
endless in goodness and power,
overflowing with grace and mercy.
You fill the world with truth and justice
and offer all people hope and new beginnings.
Lord and lover of all things,
we praise and adore you as Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit,
this day and always,
for in Christ we know you are always near. Amen.

Friends, Jesus welcomes all who are tired and heavy laden to lay down their worries at his feet. So let us confess to God and one another our sins and burdens, and find the freedom Christ promises.

**God of compassion and understanding,
our lives have slowed down in the pandemic,
and yet we struggle to hear your voice.
We are caught up in our own situations and fail to consider what
others face. Distracted by daily news and the uncertainty around us,
we forget to come to you in prayer and offer that uncertainty to you.**

In these slower days of community life, teach us how to savour the freedom of your presence. Help us enter your rhythm of grace and salvation in Jesus' name.

Fullness of God's Love

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God's compassion reaches out to all creation. God doesn't hold grudges, we are always loved unconditionally, so go and share in the freedom and love. Be the people God calls us to be. Live in peace and harmony with yourself and with all people.

Halle, Halle, Halle

VU# 958

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 45:10-17

VU #769

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
in many-colored robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.
With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.
I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

Hymn "What a Friend We have In Jesus" VU #664

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Pentecost season celebrates the gifts of the Spirit energized in the Church to touch the world with God's love and mercy, God's truth and justice. Whatever you offer back to God becomes a gift which can change the world.

Offertory "What Can I Do?" MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of kindness and compassion, we offer you our gifts in hope, trusting that you will bless them and offer your kindness to our neighbours in Jesus' name. Help us find the courage to be generous to neighbours and strangers for Christ's sake. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink,

and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Anthem “The Prayer”

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

God of mystery and meaning, help us to discover your purpose for our lives. Free us from the limits set by past expectation and experience and keep us open to all possibilities. Bless those who extend the boundaries of love and respect, who show kindness to strangers and

forgiveness to people who hurt them. Work among us by your Spirit to heal the invisible wounds of the heart:

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer from the influence of anger, jealousy, resentment or bitterness, their own or from others. Work among us by your Spirit to create mutual respect and good relations.

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your wisdom to inspire politicians, judges, lawyers, and all who form and keep our laws. Work among us by your Spirit to recognize injustice and respond to create systems of fairness and trust.

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your healing for those who are ill or in chronic pain, for those grieving the many losses of the pandemic, and for all who feel afraid for the future. Work among us by your Spirit to renew hope and sustain our support for each other.

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose workplaces are recovering from the lockdowns and economic shock during the pandemic. Give courage to those who have lost so much, and creativity to those reorganizing their lives. Work among us by your Spirit to rebuild common life with an eye to the most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

And now we offer you the prayers on hearts today in silence... Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Love Is The Touch”

MV #89

Blessing

Go forth in peace to live into Jesus’ most joyful command: Come to me! And may we follow him into a rest that bears fruit in justice, love and peace for each of us, and all of us.

Choral Benediction

“Dance with the Spirit”

Postlude