

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

September 13, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth 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

Once there was a person who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him. But they didn't know who he was. So one day they simply had to ask him. "Who are you?" and he said, "I am the light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

Introit

Call to Worship

Come!

Come and worship,

you who woke early and you who slept late;

you who come often, and you who don't.

Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between,

there is room for all of us in God's kingdom,

and more than enough grace to go around.

Let's worship God together!

Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

VU #220

Prayer of Approach

**Compassionate-One, Lover-of-Goodness, Patience-with-Sinners,
draw near to us.**

Surround us with confidence in your good news:

that you love us as parents love their children;

that your mercy is boundless and generous,

that you beckon us always and will wait forever

as we find our way back to you.

Open our hearts to receive your compassion;

and then show us how to forgive,

so that we may be vessels of resurrection hope in our troubled

world. In Jesus' name. 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 114

Tremble Earth

VU #836-837

Hymn

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Like Paul, who was showered with an abundance of mercy from God, we too have been blessed. Like Paul, we are called to go forth and witness to the presence of Christ in our lives in so many diverse ways. One of the ways in which we tell the story is through the giving of gifts to God. In our gift-giving, we participate with God in providing for the needs of God's people. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

**May our gifts become symbols of our intention
to minister with God to
satisfy the needs of those whom God loves. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Exodus 14:19-31 God parts the sea for the Hebrews.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the

chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Matthew 18:21-25 How many times must I forgive?

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

God of light and hope,
we pray for those who face lives filled with darkness:
those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit;
those bent under burdens of sorrow;

those who cannot see the way ahead.

We pray for those who accompany others in dark times and places;
For those who comfort the grieving, and work for healing and new possibilities.

May all these find their darkness transformed by your presence.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of liberation and justice,

we pray for those who suffer abuse, violence, or injustice
at the hands of powerful people or forces in their lives,
and for those who have been betrayed by people entrusted with their care.
Stir in all people a deep respect for life.

Encourage those who struggle for freedom,
and work for truth to be heard and reconciliation achieved.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace and promise,

we pray for those who work for peace in the world,
for leaders and decision makers,
for those who hold power and can make a difference in their communities,
and for those who make, interpret, and enforce laws.

Awaken a respect for the needs of the most vulnerable, including the earth
and its fragile balances.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of wisdom and understanding,

we pray for those who misunderstand the words and actions of others,
and for those who are misunderstood.

We pray for those who teach, and those who learn,
especially those who struggle and are afraid to ask for help.

In this challenging school year,
guide teachers and students in new patterns of learning
and keep each one safe and healthy.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of forgiveness and reconciliation;

we pray for those we have hurt or offended

and for those to whom we have been unkind.
We pray for those who have hurt us, or been careless with our feelings.
Work in our lives to redeem broken relationships.
Shape us into gracious and forgiving people.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

VU # 288

Blessing

May the beauty of God
be reflected in your eyes,
the love of God
be reflected in your hands,
the wisdom of God
be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God
flow from your heart,
that all might see,
and seeing, believe.

Extinguishing of the Candle

I’m going to change the light so it is not just in one place any more. It can be in many places all at once. Watch.

Choral Benediction

Postlude