

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

September 20, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Sixteenth 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

We gather in the presence of the one who never forgets us.

We are embraced by the love of God.

We gather in the presence of the one who calms our fears.

We find peace in the mothering God who draws us close.

We gather in the presence of the one who is the rock of strength for us.

We find courage to live faithfully as children of the living God.

Hymn

“Sing Praises to God”

VU #228

Prayer of Approach

We stand in awe of your wonder, O God.

We are humbled that you choose to be in relationship with us and that you call us by name to be your kin. Open our ears to hear your voice speaking afresh to us this day, calling us to see the goodness with which you surround us.

Open our hearts to mend the relationships of our lives.

Guide us always into your way of peace.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

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 105:1-6,37-45

VU # 828-829

Hymn

All God's Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

When our eyes are heavy, we dream of another world.
When our spirits are low, we turn to each other.
When our anger flares, we need each other's gifts most.
We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to create your kingdom of
heaven. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

Presentation of Offering

Offertory Prayer

**O God, you have called us, your labourers, to give our gifts.
Bless these offerings so that they reflect the work of the kin-dom
of heaven. With Christ, our servant, we pray. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of

the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Anthem

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

God of Hope,
when the world is bleak and dim, you pierce the shadows with light.
You help us see new paths and possibilities.
For hope in times of despair, for clarity when we felt confused,
for a way forward when we thought all was lost, we give you thanks.
We pray today for those who feel hopeless; for those who are sick or dying;
for those who mourn; and for those weighed down by heavy burdens.
May each of us know and share your gift of hope.

God of Peace,
all around us there is conflict: in our world, our communities, our families,
even our closest relationships. We thank you for steps toward
reconciliation in our lives, our communities, and among peoples of different
cultures and histories.
We pray today for places where pain, violence, and cruelty seem to have
the upper hand.
May each of us know and share your gift of peace.

God of Joy,
we give you thanks for moments of delight and occasions of celebration;
for happy gatherings, gentle solitude, pleasure given and received;
for laughter, friendship, and love.
We remember those who do not taste such joy; those who are lonely or
bitter, hurt, or difficult to love.
May each of us know and share your gift of joy.

God of Love,
in Jesus the Christ, your love was born in a human life. Jesus was rooted in a particular Jewish family, yet his love stretched far beyond to include outsiders and those rejected by others. We are so grateful to be part of his circle. We pray for our families, those closest to us, and anyone estranged.

We pray for friends and for acquaintances, strangers, for those very different from ourselves, and even for our enemies.

Help us draw our circles of affection wider, seeing our kinship with all people.

May each of us know and share your gift of love.

Hear us now as we pray in silence for those who have come to mind this day.

(Silence)

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be” VU # 506

Blessing

Go as God's beloved!
May God fill the lamp of your life
that you might shine with the love of God
in all you say, in all you do, in all you are.
Go now in peace. **Amen.**

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