

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

April 11, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

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.

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Once there was someone 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?" He replied, "I am the Light."

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation

***Introit**

"You Are Holy"

MV #45 X3

***Call to Worship**

At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, the faithful yet fearful people gathered together. It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered:

peace be with you.

Their hearts skipped a beat as they double checked that the lock on the front door was still latched. So the Presence of God spoke a little louder:

peace be with you.

They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled, and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if it were just too magical sounding or too good to be true. So the Christ showed them that his own scars were not the end of the story and that is when the words of God began to feel joyous:

peace be with you.

From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next, they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember that Holy interruption to fear:

peace be with you!

***Hymn**

“Christ is Alive”

VU #158

Prayer of Approach

**God of new life,
we come to you, rejoicing in the mystery of the Risen Christ,**

**present among us always, even when we least expect him.
We marvel at your constant love,
your victory over evil and death,
and your resurrecting hope which embraces us in every
circumstance.**

**Trusting in these gifts, we seek to live as Easter people in every
place and time.**

**Strengthen us with the gift of your Holy Spirit in this time of
worship,**

and bless us with your peace through Christ, our Risen Lord.

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.

Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

VU #365 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

VU #365 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Acts 4:32–35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133

VU # 856

John 20:19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the

mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

Sermon

Hymn

“Joy Comes With the Dawn”

VU #166

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

God invites us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship and to share the fullness of who we are with the world.

So it is God’s holy invitation that asks us to pause

and wonder what we want to offer of ourselves to the world.

Time? Presence? Kindness? Financial support? Prayers? We give as we are called, as we are able.

Offertory

“Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands”

VU #537

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the hope and joy we find in your resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may spread hope and joy in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus, who is the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Thank you, loving God, for your renewing presence in our lives,
and for the many ways you make yourself known to us:
in words spoken in peace,
in actions that embody love,
in creation that awakens wonder within us,
and in worship that inspires faith and understanding.
With memories of the grace you have shown us,
and with confidence in you will yet show us more,
we pray that all people will come to know the life-giving joy we find in
Christ.

We pray for those who are feeling fearful, worried or overwhelmed,
especially as the months of pandemic restrictions stretch on.
Lord Jesus,
Reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for those who face violence and unrest each day,
in countries around the world and at home in our own community.
Lord Jesus,
Reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our national, provincial, and municipal leaders
as they lead planning for our communities to recover from the pandemic.
Give them wisdom and compassion,
Lord Jesus,

Reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our congregation, for churches in our community,
and for Christians around the world, especially those who face persecution.
Lord Jesus,

Reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for our neighbours, especially for those who live in poverty
and those who know rejection and discrimination.

Lord Jesus,

Reveal to them your risen presence.

We pray for those who are ill, in pain or in grief.

We remember before you, silently or aloud, those on our hearts today:

Bring them comfort and strength,

Lord Jesus,

Reveal to them your risen presence.

God our Maker, hear our prayers,

and use us in ways we may not yet even imagine

to respond to those around us with the love we see in Jesus Christ

and the confidence we draw from his resurrection. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Dance With the Spirit”

MV #156 (X3)

***Blessing** 2 Corinthians 13:14

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant
love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with us
all forever more.

Choral Amen

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.