

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

April 4, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Easter Day / Day of Resurrection

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

Processional Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" VU #157

Welcome & Announcements

In Jesus' name, welcome!

First-time participant or one who's been here many days;
child or elder or somewhere in-between;
stewards, caretakers, disciples of Jesus, children of God—
neighbours all, loved and loving.

Welcome. Welcome in Christ's name!

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

***Call to Worship**

The women went, and found the stone rolled away.

Alleluia!

"Don't be afraid!"

Alleluia!

"Jesus is not here - he has been raised!"

Alleluia!

"Look, here is where the body was."

Alleluia!

"Go and tell the others: he has been raised!"

Alleluia!

"Jesus is going ahead of you."

Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

***Hymn**

"Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!"

MV #121

Prayer of Approach

**We come this day enjoy, O God,
to celebrate again
the wonderful miracle
that you bring life out of death.
The resurrection of Jesus
reminds us that nothing --
absolutely nothing --
can separate us**

**from your love.
Alleluia! Amen.**

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

VU # 837 Parts 1, 2, & 3

Hymn **“Praise Ye the Lord Hallelujah”**

All God’s Children

Prayer of Confession

**O God, there were times when we are afraid;
times when we do not want to hear good news;
times we find it too hard to believe
that there is reason to hope,
to have faith,
or to trust in your goodness.
There are times, too, when we refuse to believe
that your love has no limits.
Forgive us!
Transform us!
Roll away the stones from our hearts!
Open us to be Easter people,
loving you,
and sharing your love with all people.**

Moment of Silence

Kyrie

Assurance of God's love

**We can dare to confess our sin
honestly and openly to God,
for God's promise always to free us**

and always to love us.

Alleluia!

Christ is risen !

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Offertory “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands” VU #537

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of love,
we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts
as a sign of our love for you and the world.

We ask a special blessing on these gifts
where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up,
so that all may come to know of your abiding love.

**O God, we give these gifts as you have given them to us.
In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Mark 16:1–8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week,

when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

***Communion Hymn**

"There is Room at the Table"

Video

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

The Resurrection has begun! The Day of Celebration is here!

Alleluia!

We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

Here we meet all who share with us the hope for a brighter future!

All who wish to follow The Way of Life are welcome to eat and drink at God's table.

Let us eat together.

Great Thanksgiving

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

We should give thanks!

Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!

Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias,
we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb,
we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of
death.

**We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the
beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.**

As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks
through the brown of winter,

**we sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for
the promise held in every seed that is sown.**

As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before.
**People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom;
like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like
Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the
cross.**

We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who
have embraced your life, your hope, and moved into a new age.

**And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we
too can take the leap into New Life.**

Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a
Special One.

Jesus, Child of Mary.

Born of a woman, he grew to adulthood among people who
struggled daily for life.

Baptized by John, he embraced the life to which you called him.

He taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven.

And though the powerful in his world fought back, he stood strong.

When offered a chance to take the easy way he overcame his own fear and instead prayed “yet your will be done”.

Even though they put him to death you raised him to life, vindicating his vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.

As inheritors of that hope we join together in the cries the welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Remembering

As we gather at this table we remember a story told mere days ago

and yet an age ago

We remember that Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation

And while sharing the ancient story of freedom, he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.

We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying:

This is the cup of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, look toward the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

And so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.

On this Easter Day we share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

God of Life, in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the water, **calling forth life, creating and inspiring.**

Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this juice with the Spirit's power,

As we eat and drink my we feel the power of Life Triumphant pulse in our veins, the fire of hope blaze in our hearts, and the joy of the Empty tomb dance in our souls.

Christ who died is now alive!

Alleluia! Amen.

And so, as children of a loving Parent, we pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Breaking and Pouring

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life

On this Day of Celebration we pour the Cup of Promise

These are Gifts from God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Come and eat, for all is now ready.

Prayer

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have embraced the beginning of the new age. Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom. May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the Good News. Christ is Risen! Alleluia and Amen!

Hymn

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

VU #468

*Blessing

For those still following

Christ is risen!

For those, like Peter, still denying

Christ is risen!

For those, like Caiaphas, still controlling

Christ is risen!

For those, like Mary, still searching

Christ is risen!

For those, like Pilate, still washing their hands

Christ is risen!

For those, like Thomas, still doubting

Christ is risen!

For those, like Judas, still betraying

Christ is risen!

For those, like Mary, still anointing

Christ is risen!

Go in peace, to tell the world

Christ is risen!

And may the love that has newly defeated death
be with you, not just for now,

but forever.

Amen.

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.