

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

February 21, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Lent 1

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

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,
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,

**With all the choices we have in our lives,
sometimes we're not sure
when to say "Yes,"
or when to say "No."
So we ask for your guidance.
We ask for wisdom.
We ask for Spirit.
In our worship, in our work,
in our choices, in our lives.
May it be so, loving God!**

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.**

Psalm 25:1–10

Lead me in your truth, O God.

VU # 752

Hymn

"Know that God is Good"

Video

All God's Children

Prayer of Confession

You speak, O God, but we are not always listening.

Sometimes other voices are louder or more persuasive.

You show us your way, Holy One, but we are not always looking.

Sometimes other ways seduce us with their ease or power.

You give us choices, now help us to learn your will.

Lead us, Great Spirit, to walk your way on any road we travel.

Kyrie

Assurance of God's love

Rejoice and be glad! Our God is full of mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Jesus the Christ, we are made new. Dare to believe in the gift of a new beginning, and be at peace.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year,
as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.

On that journey he met many people.

He laughed with them, he cried with them,
he taught them, and he learned from them.

But, most of all, he loved them,
not just with his words, but with his actions.

Jesus taught his followers that they were to
love one another as he had loved them.

Our offering is one way to do that,
to share the work of our hands and hearts
through our dollars and cents.

As you share what you are able,
you support the ministry here,
and the ministry of The United Church of Canada
through Mission and Service.

Let us celebrate what God has given,
and what we have to share.

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

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**We do not live on bread alone,
but by your Word, loving God.
May that Word fill our hearts and our hands,
all that we have, and all that we are,
that it may be a blessing in your world.
In Jesus’ name, we ask it. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Genesis 9:8–17 *The covenant between God and Noah*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and

you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9–15 *The baptism, temptation, and mission of Jesus*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Loving God,
we thank you for the journey of our lives,
with its ups and downs,
with its questions and challenges,
and with its moments of joy.
We thank you for the beauty around us,
for the hills and the trees,
for the water and the weather,
for all that reminds us of life,
and life made new.
Today, we are especially thankful for...

(Thanksgivings of the community and/or from current events)

In the quiet of this place,
we offer you our own celebrations.

(A time for silent prayer)

Even as we say "Thank you,"
we realize that there is brokenness in us
and in our world.
We realize that we have not always lived the love to which you
call us.
Sometimes by action or by inaction,
sometimes by just going along with things,
we have broken faith with each other, and with you.
We offer to you, our brokenness, loving God, not only asking that
we would be forgiven,
but that, by your love, we would be made whole, living in new

Let us go into God's world
knowing we are never alone.
Christ's peace,
the Creator's love,
and the breath of the Holy Spirit
go with us.
Amen!

Choral Benediction

"Dance With the Spirit" MV #156

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.