

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

February 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

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,

**God of the wilderness paths,
thank you.**

**Thank you for calling us out
when we want to wrap ourselves up and hide.**

**Thank you for giving us safe space
when everything is just too much.**

**Thank you for blessing all creation with your presence,
and with your love.**

**Open our hearts, we pray—open our minds—
open our souls and, by your grace,
fill them with your abundant love;
not only so that we would be changed,
not only so that we would be blessed,
but so that we can be blessing
and people of transformation,
in your world.**

In Jesus' name we ask it.

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 22:23–31

VU #746 (Parts Three and Four)

Hymn “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” MV #30 vv. 1-2

All God’s Children

Hymn “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” MV #30 vv. 3-4

Prayer of Confession

**We are quite open about our successes.
We feel free to boast when we have done well,
but we are not quite so open when things have gone wrong.
We do not praise God anyway.
Instead, we recognize the distance
between me and you
between you and God
between God and me.
We will be quite open about it
as we open ourselves
to our Living God in silence.**

Moment of Silence

Kyrie

Assurance of God's love

You can look behind.
You can search ahead.
God will meet you in between.
God promises to always be right there.

If you believe this to be so,
If you believe God is
between here and there
between me and you,
Share that peace with your neighbour.

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.
In that meeting, they were blessed.
In that blessing, many of them were changed.
In that change, many of them shared what they had experienced.
In that sharing, they changed the world.
We are disciples of Christ, blessed by his teaching
and blessed by his love.
So, let's share who we are and what we have,
that, in that sharing, we would be part
of blessing God's world.
Let us gather together what we are able to offer!

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

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**God of all creation, we know that
all that we have,
all that we are,
is blessed and blessing.**

**In this sharing,
we add our blessing to yours.
May all of these blessings
bring hope and healing to your world. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 *The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Mark 8:31–38 *Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it*

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the vision you have for our lives,
the promises you have made to us,
and the journey you open before us.
Today we remember with gratitude:

The ways our lives are held secure in uncertain times by our trust in you;

(Hold a silence)

Moments in these months of pandemic that made us laugh or smile;

(Hold a silence)

Moments when we felt your gifts of courage and patience;

(Hold a silence)

The people who love us and give us encouragement;

(Hold a silence)

Gracious God, we are grateful for all these signs of your love in our lives. Thank you for the hope they bring us. Show us how to share this hope and love with others who are struggling in these difficult days.

Faithful God, we pray for healing and restoration in the world that is our home. Hear us as we name in silence the needs and concerns we carry today:

We pray for people, places and situations deeply in need of your grace, especially as they face the fears and frustrations of coping with COVID-19;

(Hold a silence)

We pray for those who struggle to feed, clothe or house themselves and their families, and all those who worry about their economic future;

(Hold a silence)

We pray for those who are weak or vulnerable for any reason, and for all who lack dignity and respect in our community;

(Hold a silence)

We pray for the earth and its well-being, that areas and species under threat will be cared for;

(Hold a silence)

We pray for peace with justice in regions of the world facing turmoil;

(Hold a silence)

And we pray for all those offering leadership and service in these times of hope and anxiety, for those planning how to offer vaccines in our community, and for those uncertain about vaccination;

(Hold a silence)

By the power of your Spirit, O God, work in us and through us. May we bring the light and love of your kingdom into our relationships and our community in all we do and say.

***Hymn**

“Christ Has No Body Now but Yours”

MV #171

***Blessing**

Blessed and blessing,
loving and loved,
God's people, Central Queens United,
go from this place!

We're ready!

To times of work, to times of play,
to times of busy-ness,
to times away,
God's people of Central Queens United, go to the world!

We're set!

To speak and to listen, to sing and to pray,
to be a blessing, each and every day.
God's people of Central Queens United,
go and be stewards of the faith,
Jesus' people on the Way.

We go, knowing we are never alone!
Carried by the wings of the Holy Spirit,
moving forward with Christ's peace,
enfolded in the Creator's love,
we go! Amen. Amen! AMEN!

Choral Benediction

Postlude

"Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

*Please rise as you are able.