

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

January 24, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Annual Meeting Day

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

As we enter into this sacred place,
put away the pressures of the world that ask us
to perform,
to take on masks,
to put on a brave front.
Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect.
This is a community of compassion and welcome.
A place where we can experience unconditional love
of God and each other. Welcome in the name of the
one who IS unconditional love!

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** "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" MV #18 X3

***Call to Worship**

We are called to be the church.

We celebrate the joy of service, outreach, caring and worship.

Let us sing Thanksgiving!

we have good news to share.

Praise God! We are blessed abundantly! ⁱ

***Hymn** "Love Is the Touch" MV #89

Prayer of Approach

Beloved God, we are so incredibly thankful for your grace. You lavish us with blessing upon blessing. We look around this sanctuary and marvel at the commitment and dedication of your followers. This community of faith has been richly endowed with committed followers of Jesus Way. May

**we continue to show just how much each other
is valued. We pray in the name of our holy friend,
Jesus. ⁱⁱ**

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 62:5-12

VU #779-780

***Hymn**

"Over My Head"

MV # 88 vv.1,2, &3

All God's Children

***Hymn**

"Over My Head"

MV # 88 v. 4

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

Jesus asked his first disciples to answer his call with their lives. Our offering is one way we answer his call and carry forward his ministry in the world. Consider what Christ can accomplish through the gifts you offer today.

Offertory

“What Can I Do?”

MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Jesus, you called ordinary folk to follow you and join in the work of God’s reign on earth. We offer you our gifts to share in the work you began through them. So bless our gifts and continue to work through us, that the world may know your love is still active among us all. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Jonah

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh

believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth... When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mark 1:14-20

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." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

God of fishers and farmers and factory workers,
God of those serving in health care, hospitality and at home,
God of our offices and businesses, our stores and our streets,
our schools and recreation centres, of emergency services and
entertainers, we thank you for the many ways we can serve your

purposes. You called Jesus' first followers to change their livelihoods and so they did. Today we pray for all those whose work has changed without their choice because of COVID-19; for those struggling with little or no work, whose businesses are in jeopardy, who fear for what this year may hold. Assure them of their value to you and to us all. Give them courage and perseverance as the future unfolds.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of the churches who bear your Child's name, whatever denomination or perspective or tradition that shapes us, we thank you for the communion we share and the gifts of the Spirit we receive. We pray that the differences between us which seem so important to us will not blunt our witness love and healing and hope God offers.

Teach us to value diversity in our discipleship and honour what unites us more than what divides us, so that the world may see Jesus Way reflected in all our lives.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of our cities and towns, of our villages and reserves, God of all nations and neighbourhoods, of all clans and tribes, cultures and families that shape our identities, you created us for community, to find enjoyment and support, collaboration and productivity together. We pray for all those who suffer because others judge their identities, their language or religion, their orientation or ethnicity, their social standing or lack of resources.

Guide us all to appreciate our common humanity and find ways to learn from each other through our differences. Help us to recognize the face of Christ in those who challenge our assumptions. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of all times and situations,
We bear on our hearts concerns for many around us,
people we know and situations we care about,
where suffering exerts its power and challenges seem
overwhelming. Hear us in this time as we speak our concerns
aloud or in silence.

(Congregation names concerns / folk)

Bind up the broken hearted, O God. Bring justice for the
vulnerable. Send your Spirit of healing and hope to embrace
those who need you. We dare to ask all this because we trust
that you hear our prayers. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

***Hymn**

“I See a New Heaven”

VU #713

***Blessing**

Filled with new understanding, renewed by grace,
and supported in love, may we go forth in to
the world as messengers of reconciliation and
compassion, messengers who are blessed to be part
of central Queens United Church. Amen.^{iv}

Choral Benediction

Postlude

***Please rise as you are able.**

ⁱ Written by Laura Turnbull. Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020-2021, page 52. Used with permission.

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- ⁱⁱⁱ The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner, <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>.
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