

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

January 31, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

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

Prayer of Approach

**Sung: I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
and He has made me glad.¹**

Praise God.

We thank you, God,
with all our hearts.

You have created an amazing world
for us in which we live
and we are thankful.

**Sung: I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.**

Your love is steadfast and true.
Your intent is for all to be happy and whole.
We witness your way of love in all creation,
and are pleased to be invited to be part of it.

**Sung: I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.**

¹ Hymn 626 Voice United second part of stanza 1.

We praise your holy name,
as we seek to live out Wisdom's teaching,
in harmony with creation and breathing the breath of life.

**Sung: I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.**

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 111

VU #833

***Hymn** "Come, Children, Join to Sing" **VU #345 vv. 1, 2**

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Come, Children, Join to Sing" **VU #345 v. 3**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others,
we are co-creators in the health of God's creation.
As we have been given much, let us give in return. We give as we
are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

"What Can I Do?"

MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**Christ's body we are.
Christ's body we seek to be -
Christ's body, Christ's healing, Christ's message of love to
the world.
We dedicate the money we have offered,
and the offerings of ourselves,
in service of Christ's body, Christ's healing and Christ's
message of love to the world. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from
among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This

is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Anthem

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Holy God, Ruler of heaven and earth,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Your energy fills the cosmos and enlivens every cell of our bodies.
You are around us, within us and beyond us.

Thank you for the simple pleasures of each day,
and for the strength to meet the challenges that arise.
When it feels like we have come to the end of our own resources,
replenish us with the energy of your Spirit
so that we know you are there for us and with us.

In these strange times of isolation and distancing,
we are grateful for prayer in its many forms,
for the intimate ways we can find communion with you:
in word and in silence, in music and movement,
in the Spirit's breath within us.
Draw close to us when we are feeling frustration or fear in the
days ahead,
and renew our spirits to continue serving you as best we can.

Hear us now as we pray for the earth,
this precious and fragile home to all living things:

For declining species of plant and animal life
(Hold a silence)

For the earth's climate
(Hold a silence)

For the oceans and the rainforests.
(Hold a silence)

Teach us how to be more faithful stewards of your earth
and live more respectfully in your creation.

Hear us as we pray for the economy:

For those whose decisions shape it

(Hold a silence)

For employers and business owners

(Hold a silence)

For workers and those who cannot find work

(Hold a silence)

For those who have lost their jobs and those whose businesses
are at risk

(Hold a silence)

For all who seek economic justice, fairness and the common good,
And for those who struggle to discern what this means in a
complex world.

(Hold a silence)

Teach us how to care for our neighbours in these days of
economic uncertainty.

We pray for our own circle of family and friends.

Heal, bless, lead and encourage them.

Grant to each one the particular gifts needed this day
and lead them to a healthy, productive future.

(Hold a silence)

We pray for neighbours and strangers in our community
who face struggles and sorrows as the pandemic stretches on.

(Hold a silence)

Remind us that we belong to each other and to you
and help us respond to one another with compassion and
kindness.

Finally, in silence, we bring to you the cares and hopes on our
minds today.

(Hold a silence)

Thank you for hearing the prayers of every heart. Amen²

***Hymn** “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours” MV #171

***Blessing**

May God, who is love, hold you.
May God, who is liberation, free you.
May God, who is healing, restore to you wholeness.
May we who have celebrated the gift of Christ's teaching
and healing today, go from this place to be a people that
lives and teaches Gods reconciling love in all the world. Amen.

Choral Benediction “Go in Love”

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.

² <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>