

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

July 11, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Seventh After Pentecost

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.

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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**

"I Can Feel you Near Me, God"

VU #48

***Call to Worship**

The earth is God's and all that is in it.

The world and those who live in it belong to God.

Who is the Sovereign of glory?

The One, who is strong and mighty!

So lift up your heads and your hearts!

We will lift them up in praise!

Let us worship God in beauty and holiness.

**We will offer God our steadfast love and faithfulness,
now and always.**

***Hymn** "Praise to the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet" VU #245

Prayer of Approach

**Gracious God, source of life and love in all creation,
in a world marked by bitterness, you are compassion.**

**In a culture marked by confusion, you are light shining in the
darkness.**

**In a time of conspiracies and suspicion, you are the truth that
sets us free.**

Your stillness is peace when we are frantic.

Your strength is comfort when we are fearful.

Your wisdom is guidance when we are lost.

For all that you are and all that you give,

God, our Maker,

Christ, our Saviour,

and Spirit who leads us into life,

we offer you all honour, praise and worship, now and always.

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.**

Hymn "This Is God's Wondrous World" VU #296 vv. 1,2

All God's Children

Hymn "This Is God's Wondrous World" VU #296 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Ephesians 1:3–14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Psalm 24

VU # 751

Mark 6:14–29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But

others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

The Book of Ephesians tells us that we have received an inheritance in Christ. God's gifts to us in Christ and in creation allow us to be generous in response to the needs in God's world. What we give to God speaks to the world of God's generosity, as well as our own. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we look around at the growth in gardens and fields this summer, and trust in the generosity you have planted within your creation. Bless the gifts we bring, that they too may grow in fruitfulness, and touch lives in need with your generous love, in the name of Christ, our help and our hope. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Blessed are you, O God, for all your goodness to us.
In Christ, we meet your love and wisdom, face to face.

Through the Holy Spirit, we recognize the abilities and opportunities you create in us and for us, to reach out to the world you love. We thank you for all the ways friends and families, neighbours and strangers, reach out to us and to others, offering support and kindness, speaking up when we must confront wrongdoing, celebrating when achievements bless us all with healing and happiness.

Today we pray for courageous leaders in cities, countries and congregations who strive to serve with integrity and honesty in a world prone to self-interest. We pray for those who struggle to create justice where it has been compromised, and to build reconciliation and understanding in divided communities.

We remember before you quiet and reliable leaders who keep their word and meet their deadlines so that we can depend on them in these unsettling times.

We pray for patient church members and community volunteers, who work diligently towards long-term goals that will improve our life together. And we pray for the creative, impatient change makers, who keep challenging us, to be bolder and more determined in righting wrongs and trying new strategies.

We pray for the troubled in mind or spirit, for the angry and unhappy,

and for those who feel that every day is a struggle.
Soothe their concerns and open their hearts to claim the hope
and help you offer.

We remember before you the sick and the dying,
and the bereaved who must try to put their lives back together
again.

We pray for those who are recovering from the pandemic,
looking for better health, a fresh start, more stability or a glimpse
of hope.

Draw close to all these who suffer,
offering your comfort and courage to face whatever comes next.

Receive our prayers, both spoken and unspoken,
and embrace us all in your love.

Give us hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf,
but also what you call us to do on your behalf.

***Hymn** “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” VU #271

***Blessing**

There are, in our day, so many people who
"cannot find God."

And I tell you:

that God is in our future calling us;
that God is in our past forgiving us;
that God is in the present loving us.

There is no greater blessing!

Choral Benediction “When You Walk from Here” VU #298 X 3

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.