

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

July 18, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Eight 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**

In moments of anxiety, God leads us to still waters.

O God, we come to you.

In moments of confusion, God leads us in right paths.

O God, we come to hear your voice.

In moments of loneliness, God is with us.

O God, we come into your presence, seeking your love.

In all our moments, God is with us.

So we come to praise the One who restores our lives.

***Hymn**

“Let Us Build a House”

MV #1

Prayer of Approach

**God our Maker,
in summer we easily marvel at the world you have made,
the colours of sunrise and sunset filling the horizon,
the intricate beauty of flower gardens and natural parks,
the quiet dignity of a river in its course,
and the steadfast presence of a rock face carved over time.
You show us how each small piece of your creation
depends in many ways on all the others.
Summer growth depends on spring rains;
health for each creature depends on the wise balance
you have set between each species;
the quality of life on the respect we show one another.
Wise and patient God, we marvel at the world you love.
Our worship joins the songs of all creation to bring you praise,
honouring you and the relationships you have set between us
all, through Christ, firstborn of all creation.**

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

All God's Children

Hymn

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Ephesians 2:11–22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Psalm 23

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a

deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.... When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

God’s goodness flourishes around us in this season of growth and re-creation. Our gifts to God are a token of our gratitude for all we receive in Christ and in creation. These gifts will also help God’s goodness flourish through the ministries we undertake in Jesus’ name.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of goodness and growth, receive our gifts and our gratitude for the fruitfulness you provide. Bless our gifts with your Spirit so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, for the sake of Christ, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Good and generous God,
in Christ you came to us, promising life in abundance.
We give you thanks today for the abundant gifts we receive in him—
the assurance of your love day by day;
the relief of your mercy when we recognize our own failings;
hope to sustain us when things seem bleak;
and peace that comes when we trust ourselves to your eternal keeping.
These are the gifts that matter, O God,
so for all these gifts and other blessings we recognize around us,
we give you thanks in these moments of silence:

Generous God, today we pray for all whose lives seem empty of joy—
because the going is tough, and friends still seem far away...
because their hearts are filled with disappointment...
because their sorrow and grief are keen this day...

Support each one in your abundant compassion.

Generous God,
we remember before you those whose lives are empty of peace and hope—
because they are struggling with illness or disability...
because they are powerless in the face of violence
or other forces beyond their control...

Especially today we pray for all those facing discrimination
because of their culture or their religion,
and those struggling amid the wild fires in British Community.

Send your peace and promise with signs of new possibility and real hope.

Generous God,
we remember before you those for whom life is frustrating—
because they are without work...
because they have made poor choices and cannot find a way forward...
because what comes next does not seem clear...

Support each one in your abundant mercy and lead them in new paths.

Good and generous God,
fill us with energy and compassion to reach out to those facing difficult
times.
May we become the gift we have received in the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn**

“I Feel the Winds of God”

VU #625

***Blessing**

The presence of God reaches beyond this place...
May the flame that has brightened our time together
warm our hearts, light our paths,
**and inspire our vision, as we once again
go our separate ways.**

Walk well your journey in peace and in justice.
May you be wrapped in the shawl of God's loving.
May you be cherished.
May you be blessed.
Amen. May it be so.

Choral Benediction

“When You Walk from Here”

VU #298

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.