

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

July 25, 2021

10:30 a.m.

9th 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**

We join together as hungry eaters
to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.

As you care for the wheat fields that turn into bread
and the vineyards that labour to produce sweet wine,
tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy
growth.

God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.

The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready
to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

***Hymn**

“Sing Praises to God”

VU #228

Prayer of Approach

**Holy Chef,
may we savour the dishes that you have prepared for us this
day.**

**With each bite of your holy feast,
enliven our senses so that we may delight
in the new and tantalizing flavours you have created.**

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 "We Praise You for the Sun"

VU #225 vv. 1-2

All God's Children

Hymn "We Praise You for the Sun"

VU #225 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Ephesians 3:14–21

For this reason I bow my knees before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that

surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 14

VU #735

John 6:1–21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley

loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." As we have been granted great abundance, let us offer up those blessings in God's name.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of wonders, who enabled Jesus and Elisha to feed the multitudes, bless these gifts and use them to fill empty stomachs and empty hearts. May our offerings be multiplied to abundantly nourish all the people.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.
Come near to us and overcome our fear.

God of mystery and miracle,
You are calm in our storms and challenge in our satisfaction.
We give you thanks for all the ways we have tasted your abundance, in friendship and fellowship,
in food on our tables and safety on our doorsteps.
Amid these everyday satisfactions,
keep us mindful of those who lack the necessities of life
and who find each day unpredictable and anxious.
Like Jesus' disciples caught on the rocky sea, we fear the storms of life. So many people know turmoil in war and displacement.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.
Come near to us and overcome our fear.

Throughout the world and in our own communities,
we witness increased divisiveness
and hatred toward those considered a threat.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.
Come near to us and overcome our fear.

In so many countries and in our own neighbourhoods,
we witness great inequity and deep need for even the staples of
life.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.

Come near to us and overcome our fear.

In our communities, congregations and families,
we witness uncertainty about the future
and the cost of months of pandemic isolation and lockdown.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.

Come near to us and overcome our fear.

In our own lives and the lives of so many friends and neighbours,
we witness depression, anger, anxiety and despair,
as we cope with the uncertainty of these months of restrictions
and the grief they have caused.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.

Come near to us and overcome our fear.

We hold before you in these moments of silence
the people and places in need of your healing presence.

Into the unrest around us, call out to us.

Come near to us and overcome our fear.

***Hymn** “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours”

MV #171

***Blessing**

God's love is overwhelming!
As we have been fed this day by the Word,
let us go and offer the food of life to others.
Grant us holy instincts of faith
as we trust in you, O God, to place the final touches
on our culinary masterpieces.

Amen.

Choral Benediction

“When You Walk from Here”

VU #298

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.