

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

July 4, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Sixth 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**

God calls to us:

come, gather here and spend time in my company.

Here we will speak of the things of faith and ponder the ways of wisdom.

You are my Kin, you who have known me so long and are so familiar with my ways,

will you sit with me,

will you be open to what is new in the old,

what is unusual in the familiar?

Will you tussle with my word and let it draw you out of the ordinary into the extraordinary?

Will you let it stir you up and unsettle you?

Will you be open to my transforming power?

We are ready God to be open and transformed in this time of worship.

***Hymn**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

VU #220

Prayer of Approach

God of grace,

we hear your call but we are not always at our best,

at our most accepting and our most caring selves when we come to worship.

Often we rush in,

bursting with the circumstances of our lives,

and so preoccupied with other things.

Here and now we stop,

we breathe out,

we let go of distancing noise,

and we settled into your welcoming and caring company.

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 "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold" VU #605 v. 1

All God's Children

Hymn "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold" VU #605 v. 2

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know;

God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Psalm 48

VU #772–773

Mark 6:1–13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of

James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

The Gospel of Mark reminds us that Jesus met both trust and unbelief in his ministry. We know that our ministry is also

challenging and meets with different responses, too. Whatever we offer to God, we give in faithfulness, trusting that God will bless all our efforts in Jesus' name with surprising results. We give as we are able; we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

We give these gifts freely and without conditions, may they flow into the world, even into places we would not particularly choose, and bring transformation and nourishment to all those in need. Amen

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Creator God,
you reached out to so many different people,
with so many different needs, in so many different situations.
We thank you for the ways you have reached out to us,
in the embrace of prayer,
in the energy of a song,
in thought sparked by a sermon,
and in the wisdom of a word from scripture or the words of a friend.
Sometimes your healing has brought comfort;
sometimes it has brought challenge and the call to respond.

Hear us as we seek your comfort and your challenge
for the world, for the church and for our lives.

Bring comfort to those whose lives have been overturned by the pandemic:
to those whose work or study has become so much more difficult;
to those who cannot find work and don't know where to turn;
to those who still struggle with COVID-19 or another lingering illness,

and those who have lost hope that things will ever improve.

(Pause)

Bring challenge to those who lead recovery efforts over the next months:
to those whose decisions affect the well-being of the vulnerable,
to those who guide economic and educational planning,
and those who are rebuilding community life:

(Pause)

May your wisdom and compassion guide them.

God of comfort, bring comfort to those who are lonely or shut in,
and to all who have lost beloved family members or friends during the
pandemic;

bring comfort to those who feel pain without relief
and those who wait for diagnosis or life-restoring treatment.

Offer peace to those who know there is no treatment
and wait in hope for your eternal welcome.

(Pause)

Bring challenge to those who want to make the world a better place,
and to all who work within science, medicine, and the law
to improve the quality of life for all people.

Give them a vision of their work that is both just and courageous,
so that no part of society is neglected or mistreated.

Challenge those who stir up violence and unrest
with a sense of shame for the cost to innocent lives,
and with a deeper understanding of what justice means.

Present God, comfort your church
in places where ministries struggle, whatever the reason.
And challenge your church to renew our vision for ministry
so that our witness is faithful to your all-embracing love,
expressed not only in words but also in the actions we take
to embrace those who differ from us
and yet have a place in your heart and your eternal care.

***Hymn** “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection” VU #586

***Blessing**

Go out into God's world with the commitment to make others feel loved, and welcomed.

And know this, you yourselves are loved and welcomed by God, who was called you by name and knows you by heart. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.