

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

June 13, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Third 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**

"Spirit of the Living God"

VU #376

***Call to Worship**

People of God,
come to worship this day, willing to look through the heart,
ready to encounter God in new ways,
available to new revelations of faith,
prepared to set aside preconceptions.
open to mystery and wonder.
In all these things we come to worship our God.

***Hymn**

“I Come with Joy”

VU #477

Prayer of Approach

**Come Spirit, abide with us today;
be our guide and wise counsel,
be our advocate and our companion,
be our reassurance.
You lead us along new pathways and into new places.
You reveal your nature and the nature of God to us.
Save us from our preconceptions and hold us in your care.**

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 "Small Things Count" VU #361 vv. 1-2

All God's Children

Hymn "Small Things Count" VU #361 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what

you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 20

VU #742

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

The parables of St. Mark remind us that God's kingdom grows from small beginnings with surprising results. So give to God as you are able, and trust

that God will honour your generosity for the purposes of God's Spirit at work among us and beyond us.

Offertory "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands" VU #537

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

God of small seeds and secret growth, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that you will bless them. Use them as seeds of new life in our community and in your world. Grow results we cannot even imagine—within us, among us, because of us, in spite of us and beyond us, for the sake of Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

Gracious God, you hold all things in your hands.
We may plant seeds, but it is your mysterious power that brings forth the plant. We do our small parts, but you bring growth and new life.
Thank you for our place in your purposes.

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

We pray for the troubled places of our world,
especially those countries and communities still struggling with COVID-19
and those marked by violence and injustice...

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

We pray for our community and province
as we rebuild common life and recover from the pandemic.
We pray for those seeking work or rebuilding businesses,
for those exhausted by months of service,
and those still suffering the effects of COVID-19.

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

We pray for those who feel empty or lonely,
who fear the future or mourn the past.
We pray for those who suffer pain or grief,
and for all whose lives have been on hold during these months of
pandemic.

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

We pray for The United Church of Canada,
for its courts, committees, staff and agencies,
as they continue the work of the church in many ways.
Strengthen our local ministry and mission
and help us learn new ways to reach out
after the months of distancing and adapting to technological assistance.

Come in your wisdom and plant seeds of your kingdom.
Watch over tender new life unfolding and bring it to maturity.

Gracious God, you hold all things in your hand, including us.
Keep us open to your Spirit's leading. Amen.

***Hymn** “Creator God You Gave us Life” MV #27

***Blessing**

People of God, children of the way,
leave here with your insight tuned and
aligned with the heart of God and your desire to serve God's

world with diligence strengthened and renewed.

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.