

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

May 16, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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**

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

VU #400

***Call to Worship**

We come and seek the ways of wisdom.

We come as one Body in Christ.

We come to find peace and sing songs of love.

We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.

Come, let us worship.

***Hymn**

“Worship the Lord”

VU # 401

Prayer of Approach

Life-giving God, your love and light

guides us on the path of

courage, compassion, generosity, and grace.

Lead us we seek to follow your transformative love

that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.

O God, help us embrace your guiding love that

calls us to live as your faithful witnesses,

who reflect your grace and redemptive love.

God, open hearts to receive your gracious love,

and strengthen us to carry the Good News of your healing power

found in the light, love and life of Jesus, who is the Christ.

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 “I love to Tell the Story” VU #343 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

Hymn “I love to Tell the Story” VU #343 v. 3

Listening for God's Word

Sacred Word

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and

Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

VU #724

John 17:6–19

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from

the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

The season of Easter comes to a close this Sunday. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, God's goodness never ends. Our gifts to God tell of our gratitude for these blessings and our commitment to share them with the whole world.

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

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

**Dear God,
we offer our generous gifts as a sign of our gratitude
for creating us to care for one another.
We pray your blessings upon these gifts, that they may
serve as our love for you and the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,
you have begun the work of creating a new world,
a world where justice is known,
where freedom and healing are available to all people.
We pray for the places in the world that are caught up in violence,
where people are held captive or struggle under oppressive
powers, and where sickness prevails, and medical resources are
scarce.

(Silence for a count of ten)

Grant those affected courage and perseverance through your
Spirit. May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend
for us all.

You have begun the work of creating a new community,
a community where love is shared, and all find a sense of
belonging. We pray for groups who are made to feel like they
don't belong, for families that caught up in tension or strife,
and for those who feel isolated or desperate because no one
seems to care.

(Silence for a count of ten)

Grant them all courage and comfort through your Spirit.
May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us
all. You have begun the work of making a new creation,
a creation where all that has been broken is being restored,
where all that has been distorted is made right,
and what has been polluted or damaged is renewed.
We pray for the earth, the places where its natural balances are
threatened and species put at risk by human exploitation.

(Silence for a count of ten)

Send your healing Spirit to renew the earth and make us wiser stewards. May creatures everywhere know the fullness of life you intend for us all.

As you work towards making all things new,
we pray for renewal in our churches and ministries,
for leaders tired out by the responsibilities of coping with
pandemic demands, and for church members who have drift away
in the months of distancing.

(Silence for a count of ten)

Send your energizing Spirit to gather the church in ways both familiar and new. May your servants in every church know the fullness of life you intend for us all and be empowered to bear witness to Jesus in refreshing ways.

***Hymn** “I have Called You by Your Name” MV #161

***Blessing**

Let us go forth in the world, giving thanks that we have come.
Let us go forth renewed in spirit, knowing that we belong to God.
And, let us go forth as witnesses, carrying the light of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Choral Amen

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.