

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

May 23, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Day of 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 #373 v1&2

***Call to Worship**

Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold.

Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples,

and we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present in our world today.

Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again.

We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.

Friends, welcome. Welcome to this place with all your questions, doubts, wonders and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new.

May we be open to the Spirit.

May we be open to learning and learning from one another.

May we grow in faith, hope, and love.

Come, let this time of worship hold us, challenge us and transform us, let us worship God!

***Hymn**

“Come, O Holy Spirit”

MV #23

Prayer of Approach

God of power and possibility,

**With the flame of your Spirit, you give us energy
to move into the world in Jesus' name.**

**With the breath of your Spirit, you refresh us
to engage life in its complexity.**

**Your Spirit embraces us in our diversity
and invites us to find unity in your love.**

**We honour you for the gift of creation in all its beauty and
bounty. We praise you for your presence with us in every time
and place. In this time of worship, send us the Holy Spirit once
again, and renew us to serve you in the world, the world that
aches for the healing and wholeness you offer.**

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

Ezekiel 37:1–14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

VU # 827 Part Two

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to

Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to God's Word

Offertory Invitation

As people of God, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus and the disciples who sought to build up beloved community. We are each equipped by the Spirit with particular skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work.

In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have been gifted with and are open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?

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

*Presentation of Offering

*Offertory Prayer

Spirit of love, bless the gifts we offer so that they accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. Bless our lives, too, so that our words and actions may bear witness to God's great love and mercy each and every day. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and your whole church on this day of Pentecost:
Blow through us and renew our faith.
Re-awaken our love for God.
Let your flames warm our hearts that enable us to do great things in God's name.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and renew our faith.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us
and give us energy to serve you as the body of Christ working in the world.
Open our eyes to recognize needs around us.
Open our hearts to welcome newcomers and strangers.
Open our hands to share in tasks that need doing,
and open our lips in prayer and praise.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and renew our energy to serve.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and give us understanding
for all those whose lives seem so different from ours
(silence)

For those facing situations we've never encountered
(silence)

For those with whom we've disagreed
(silence)

For problems and challenges we face at home, at work
and in the world still struggling with the effects of the pandemic
(silence)

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and give us new understanding.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and bring healing
for all who face pain or illness, discouragement or disappointment
(silence)

For all who know sorrow, sadness or grief
(silence)

For those who face stress and pressure,
especially as they recover from the impact of the pandemic
(silence)

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and bring healing and peace.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us
and bring us the compassion we see in the Christ.
Blow through us and equip us to serve the world you love.
Blow through us and refresh us as your faithful followers. Amen.

***Hymn** “She Comes Sailing on the Wind” VU #380

***Blessing**

That Pentecost day, with the Spirit in the air,
the disciples were suddenly clear about their stories
and their intention to share their stories with the world.
Maybe it was the rushing wind that had jolted them out of
complacency.
Maybe it was the dancing tongues of fire that landed on each one
that ignited them to action.
Maybe it was the hope that comes with having the Companion,
the Advocate, nearby. Whichever it was, the disciples found their
authentic voices and soon after discovered they had a story to
share with the world.
Go forth into this day, with the Spirit in the air,
to share your stories of God’s love with the world.
Go forth into the world in the name of God, the one who creates
you;
go in the name of the Jesus who shows us the way; and
go in the name of the Holy Spirit, who is with us now and always.

Choral Amen

Choral Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise as you are able.