

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

**October 10, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**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.**

**Gathering for Worship**

**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 is brought forward during the quiet time)

**Bible Presentation**

**\*Introit**

**"Breath of God, Breath of Peace"**

**MV #24 v. 1**

## **\*Call to Worship**

From the eagles' aerie, to the fishes' deep –  
**from the colour drenched leaves, to the rain drenched street –**  
with our lips, with our hearts, with our hands, with our feet –  
**we sing out, "ALLELUIA!"**  
**we laugh out, "HOSANNA!"**  
**we shout out, "THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!"**

For all that was.

**For all that is.**

For all that will be.

**Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!**

For all that we were.

**For all that we are.**

For all that we could be!

**Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!**

So, together we sing...

**Let it be.**

Together we say...

**May it always be so.**

Together we shout...

**AMEN!**

*Written by Richard Bott (Vancouver, B.C.), and posted on **Gifts in Open Hands**.*

## **\*Hymn**

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"**

**VU #226**

## **Prayer of Approach**

Hot showers in the morning,  
and cool breezes in the evening;  
work that provides for our families,  
and abundance that makes us generous;

funny jokes told by third graders,  
and the silent tears of a grandmother  
lost in her childhood forever.

**These blessings are ours, Joy of creation.**

Teachers who patiently help us with our math,  
and mentors who keep us on the right path;  
friends who clear off sidewalks before we awaken,  
and employers whose hearts are greater than their profits;  
piano teachers who smile at our repeated mistakes,  
coaches who teach us (one more time)  
how to curl the puck into the goal.

**These blessings are ours, Servant of Joy.**

Dogs who bounce us awake early in the morning  
and cats who lullaby us to sleep at night;  
grandfathers who teach us how to whittle  
and sisters who give up a day to babysit;  
little boys who always forget to wipe their mouths  
and people who always remember to say "thank you."

**These blessings are ours, Joyous Spirit.**

God in community, Holy in One,  
**Thanksgiving is in every word we speak.**

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.**

**Responsive** Psalm 126

VU #850

**\*Hymn** "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet" VU #245 v.1

**All God's Children**

**\*Hymn** "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet" VU #245 v.2

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Offertory Invitation**

At this time of harvest, we celebrate the gifts of God's good earth which sustain us. Yet this year we know in some places, harvests will not be plentiful. In every community, neighbours still struggle to recover from what has been lost during the pandemic. So today we offer what we have to share, grateful for God's gifts large and small, praying they will make a difference in difficult times, trusting that God goes with us, whatever we face.

**Offertory** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

VU# 227 v.1

## **\*Presentation of Offering**

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**As you refresh us with all your gifts, God of Joy, we offer our gifts so that others might be touched by your grace, fed by the gifts of your creation, clothed in the generousness of your compassion and embraced in your loving arms. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Word**

#### **Joel 2:21–27**

Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the LORD has done great things!  
Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the LORD your God;  
for God has given the early rain for your vindication,  
poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.  
The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

### **Matthew 6:25–33**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet our gracious God feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your loving - caring God knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

**Prayer - Prayer Litany: A generous Harvest**

God, source of all life,  
the northern autumn is all around us now, beautiful  
in scarlet and gold.

We have heard the Spirit of God in the rustling  
leaves and the rush of water,  
and we are so grateful for a generous harvest,  
for seeds of many kinds, sown and multiplied,  
for the sufficiency we enjoy.

*Sung (Taizé):*

***Bless the Lord, my soul  
and bless God's holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads us into life.***

Creator God,  
we are so grateful for the creation which nourishes  
and sustains all that lives.

Renew in us the sense of its value  
that we may not squander its riches,  
or so bend it to our will that we find we have  
destroyed it.

*Sung (Taizé):*

***Bless the Lord, my soul  
and bless God's holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, my soul,***

***who leads us into life.***

Transforming God,  
we cannot sow our seed with clenched fists.  
Help us to open our hands, to let go of grasping,  
that we too may scatter with hope and generosity  
our seeds of justice, peace and joy.  
So may the fruits of our harvest  
be for the sharing of the earth  
and the blessing of your love.

**Amen.**

— *written by Peggy M De Cuehlo (from Bread of Tomorrow, edited by Janet Morley, SPCK/Christian Aid), abridged.*

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

VU #288

**\*Blessing**

Go now, rejoicing!

**God has done wondrous things for us!**

Go, to welcome friends and family to your table.

**Christ would have you include the stranger, as well.**

Go, with glad and open hearts into the world,

**where the spirit will work beside us, giving hope and courage to all.**

And now, as we are held, may we go forth to hold others  
in the name of the Redeemer, Sustainer and Spirit. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” VU # 79

Chorus

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.