

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

**April 3, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Induction of New Elders**

**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**

There was a person who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

**Quiet Preparation for Worship** (Bible is brought forward during the quiet time)

## Lenten Litany

Following Jesus requires strength for the journey. If we follow faithfully, we will find ourselves taken into places of shadows and death. It is easy to falter and want to return home. Have courage to step forward.

*The fifth rock is placed*

The rock of courage.

**May God's spirit walk with us.**

**\*Introit** “Don't Be Afraid”

MV #90

## Call to Worship

Family of God, we gather as whom we are, and we bring what we have.

**Let us encounter the new thing God is doing among us.**

We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

**Let us engage the new thing God is doing among us.**

In this space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths and changes circumstances.

**Let us encourage the new thing God is doing among us.**

**We come with open hearts to worship God.**

**\*Hymn** “Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222

## Prayer of Approach

Holy One, we rejoice in your presence. We acknowledge that you have done great things in our history, in our present, and in our

future. Our hope rests in you. We rejoice in confidence that you abide in our dry spaces and in our flowing streams. Lead us through troubling times and empower us to continue to press toward you and your way. In our worship, part our lips in praise, open our hearts in love, and quench our spirits in worship. Amen.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which 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.**

### **Psalm 126**

VU# 850

**\*Hymn**                    "Jesus, Friend of Little Children"                    VU# 340 vv. 1, 2

### **All God's Children**

**\*Hymn**                    "Jesus, Friend of Little Children"                    VU# 340 v. 3

## **Prayer for Transformation and Restoration**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
we gather in your name today,  
aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross.  
We confess it is not easy to follow your story.  
Your willingness to give yourself  
inspired some to give of themselves,  
while others hesitated or criticized.  
We confess we often struggle to decide what to give,  
whom to help. We can be critical of those  
in need and those who help them.  
Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share,  
and excuse ourselves from acting generously,  
as you did. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Unending Love**

The God of grace sees us fully, knows us fully, and loves us fully.  
May our eyes be ever open to see ourselves as God sees us and  
restore our souls.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

In the gospel reading, we find a story of abundant generosity. Let us be like Mary who did not count the cost of the blessing she shared but only sought the good, purpose, and reward of her gift. Let us not hesitate to pour what we have out in order to touch lives, comfort and console, and meet the needs we encounter in our community and our world.

## **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours”  
MV #171 (Chorus)

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Anoint these gifts, Generous God, that they may fulfill their purpose. Through the pouring out of our financial resources, unique passions and skills, and faithful companionship with our community, may we impart hope, render joy, and participate in your kingdom. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Word**

#### **Isaiah 43:16-21**

Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honour me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

### **John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

## Induction of Elders

### Scripture

Let us hear the message of scripture.

There are different ways of serving,  
but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service,  
but the same God gives ability to each of us.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way  
in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body which has many parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its  
happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is part of it.

### Statement of Purpose

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude  
that you have been called by God,  
and chosen by the people of Central Queens United congregation  
for leadership in the church.

This ministry is a blessing, an honour and a responsibility.

It recognizes your special gifts

and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf.

We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God,  
and to all God's people. As you come to assume the duties of  
your office, let us make a covenant before God and with one  
another.

*Newly Elected Elders Stand*

*(Bernie Dykerman, Mark Douglas, Sarah Weeks, and Walter  
Carver)*

As a disciple of Jesus the Christ,

will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving? Will you carry out your responsibilities / duties in this congregation with integrity and joy?

**I will, God being my helper.**

(Congregation stands)

Will you, the members and adherence of Central Queens United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?

**We will, God being our helper**

### **Prayer**

**Loving God, you have called these people to serve you.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all  
that we may keep the promises we have made today.  
Help them to fulfill their responsibilities.  
May their leadership help us all  
to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.**

### **Declaration**

In the name of God: Creator, Christ and Spirit,  
we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as  
Elders of Central Queens United Church. Amen.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

O God in whom we live and move and have our being,  
we come to you in prayer,

trusting that you are with us in the ups and downs,  
the joys and sorrows of these challenging days.  
We give you thanks for every sign of your presence with us,  
for every unexpected kindness,  
every word of comfort or encouragement,  
every sign of courage in the face of injustice,  
every hopeful step towards reconciliation amid conflict,  
and healing in the face of disease or danger.  
Thank you for your presence with us in all things.

In this unpredictable world,  
we pray for those whose lives are caught up in reckless terror or  
planned oppression,  
and for those living in places where they are afraid to walk freely;  
we remember all who find the uncertainty of our times  
overwhelming and discouraging:

*Concerns Shared*

May those living in fear find courage to go on in your company.

As the stories of Jesus turn us toward the cross, O God,  
we pray for those who also walk the road of suffering.  
We remember before you  
those whose lives that have been plunged into sorrow or despair  
through tragic death, through critical illness or chronic pain  
and through complicated problems that seem to have no end:

*Concerns Shared*

May all know your comfort and compassion.

O God, the stories of Jesus show us  
that he faced the clamour of many demands  
and the pressure of many critics.

We pray for all those who are exhausted these days,  
juggling more demands and fewer resources in their work or at  
home,

for those who cannot seem to get it right, whatever they do,  
and for all those facing unfair criticism and expectations  
in the responsibilities they bear on behalf of others.

### *Concerns Shared*

May all these be strengthened by your Spirit of justice and mercy.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own  
way.

Anoint us with your Spirit of healing and hope,  
and bring peace to our lives and this world you love  
for the sake of Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn**

“Go to the World”

VU #420

**\*Benediction**

As you go into the world, may the aroma of your faith fill the air  
around you. May your hope perfume your encounters. May your  
touch mend broken walls. And may the God of hope and peace,

guide you, envelope you, and sustain you on the journey and in the work.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Peace Be with You”

MV #215

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.