

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

August 7, 2022

10:30 a.m.

9th 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.

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)

***Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

Are you ready?

Every day can be a banquet!

Are you ready?

Every day can be a welcome home!

Are you ready?

Every meal can be communion.

Are you ready?

Every drink can ease our thirst

for friendship, for community, for wholeness.

Are we ready to welcome our God?

Let us come together to worship, to listen, to learn.

***Hymn** “How Firm a Foundation”

VU #660

Opening Prayer

Abundant God, we wait for you with longing, hope, and anticipation. May your kingdom be realized in this community.

May your people be your ambassadors.

May your love be our propeller in the world and our beacon to direct us home.

Fill us with the bread of life and nourish our spirits to be your good news in the world.

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 50:1–8, 22–23

VU #775

***Hymn** “Let There Be Light”

VU #679 vv. 1, 2, 3

All God's Children

***Hymn** “Let There Be Light”

VU #679 vv. 4, 5, 6

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance and flourishing. Every resource, every gift, every product originates from the generosity of your creation and the creativity you have bestowed upon us. Forgive us for misuse and overuse of your gifts. Reveal our miserly attitudes toward the plentiful trove of resources you have entrusted to our care. Sow generosity in us, reveal abundance to us, and enable flourishing through us. Amen.

Assurance of Amazing Love

Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Grace is such a gift; mercy is another. Transformation and new life descend freely from the Most High to all who would be willing and open to receive it. Receive the assurance of God's love and compassion as precious treasure made available to all.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Luke 12:34 informs us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents. May our generosity meet God's abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community and beyond.

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to be used for your kingdom. May your will be realized and your creation restored because we dare to share these offerings. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more;

bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Luke 12:32–40

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Living God,

we give you thanks for life and breath, your gift to us.

Thank you for the gift of faith that gives us courage when things are difficult, and for the encouragement we find in the faith of others we meet. Inspire to understand you as Source of life and hope.

Faithful God,

thank you for guiding us when we cannot see the path ahead.

Thank you for showing us a way through our challenges when we cannot see a solution on our own.

Help us to continue to trust in you in these days when so much is confusing and uncertain.

We pray for those who wonder if they can rely on you,
and for those who are afraid for the future.

Give them courage to listen for your presence.

We pray for those who doubt.

Give us courage to explore our doubts and questions
and so discover renewed trust in your promises.

We pray for those who are impatient.

Bless us in times of waiting for what comes next
and fill us with kindness.

We pray for those who have chosen a path that has led to trouble.

Turn our hearts towards you

and lead us in the ways of goodness, justice, and generosity.
We pray for your Church in these days when so much is changing.
Give us wisdom to discern ways to reach out to our community,
and faithfulness to keep following the ways of life you have shown
us.

Faithful God, we depend on you!
Be gracious and bless us, so that our lives may be a blessing to
others. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Three Things I Promise” MV #176

***Benediction**

Live in the abundance of God’s treasure, spreading the love and
peace of Christ in the world to the glory of God. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” MV #115

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.