

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

February 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Seventh after Epiphany

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)

Bible Presentation

***Introit**

"A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (Chorus)

Call to Worship

Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow?

Find me at your table,
we'll share your food.

Find me in your resources,
we'll share your riches.

Find me in your power,
we'll share your mercy.

Find me in your pain,
we'll share your forgiveness.

Find me in your generosity,
we'll share all, and expect nothing in return.

In community, seek my holiness;
we follow you in love, generosity, joy.

In the world, share my desire:
we follow you in justice, mercy, peace for all.

***Hymn** "I Sing the Mighty Power"

VU #231

Prayer of Approach

**Holy One, you are deep within our world,
calling us to join you in creating
abundant life for all.**

**Open our hearts to recognize you.
Free us to trust your call and follow;
enable us to repent, and forgive,
and join in your work to make "all things new".**

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 37:1–11, 39–40

VU #763

***Hymn** “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

VU #570 v.1

All God's Children

***Hymn** “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

VU #570 v.2

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

When we give our tithes and offerings,
we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.
I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** “What Can I Do”

MV #191

***Offertory Prayer**

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

Let them give you honour and glory as we

serve the needs of your people. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; God has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all the house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children

and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Mark 7:24–37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre (tai-ur). He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."

So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis (duh-ka-puh-lis). They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then

looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Anthem

Sermon *The Work of Forgiveness*

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all life and each life:

you created us and set us in relationship with each other
in families and neighbourhoods,
in communities and countries,
in cultures and nations.

Today we give you thanks for all the gifts of home life and
community celebration
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives.

Thank you for the blessings we know
through the contributions of those who have gone before us.
Help us offer what we can
to sustain the wellbeing of our community and country,
so that all who make it their home will find security and dignity:
God of the whole human family,
Hear our prayers for your world.

God of our faith and our future,
there are so many pressures we face today,
so many problems without simple solutions.

Draw near to anyone who is struggling in economic difficulty,
and all those burdened by challenges to their health and
happiness.

Guide us all through the changing face of the pandemic,
and support all those who are finding the stress overwhelming.
Ease any conflict in homes and workplaces
and inspire solutions that express mutual respect and deeper
understanding.

Help us share with others the hope we find in your presence.
God of the whole human family,
Hear our prayers for your world.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
you call us to live together in peace and unity.
We pray for our neighbourhoods and the nations of this world.
Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment,
show us how to work for reconciliation.
Where violence and fear turn neighbour against neighbour, or
nation against nation, equip leaders to work for justice that will
bring peace.
Help us build a world where children enjoy a future
filled with good health and happiness.

God of the whole human family,
Hear our prayers for your world.

God, our hope and our help,
send your Spirit to equip our congregation with skill and resilience
to weather the challenges the pandemic has brought for our life
together.

Strengthen friendships, new and old,

and make us a source of encouragement and connection to each other. Help each one find a place and a purpose in our mission and ministry. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "When Pain of the World"

VU #598

***Benediction**

Send us into the world, O Holy One,
ready to witness to your generosity and forgiveness,
ready to be recognized as those who follow your Way,
ready to shape a world of justice, peace and joy.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.