

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

January 16, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Second 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

How precious is God's steadfast love!
We will find refuge in the shelter of God's wings.

Come and feast on God's abundance.
We will drink from the river of God's delights.

For with God is the fountain of life;
and in God's light we will see light.

Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!
We will bring God our prayers and our praise with hearts full of love.

***Hymn** "Open My Eyes, That I may See"

VU #371

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, you have given each one of us special gifts - gifts from your Spirit. We praise you, God, for the gifts that overflow in us. Help us to know how you want us to use our gifts, individually and within our community, to heal the hurt and brokenness in our world. Be with us this day as we sing praises, hear your word and open our hearts to the ways that you are speaking to us and through us.

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 36:5–10 God's steadfast love is without limits. VU #762

***Hymn** "I Am the Light of the World" VU #87 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "I Am the Light of the World" VU #87 v.3, 4

A Litany

As winter trees
stretch out bare arms to a dark sky,
**We stretch out in the darkness
to find the touch of love.**

As snow drops
turn their gentle faces to the sun,
**We long to find in that warmth
the promise of peace.**

As the fire
breaks the shell of the seed,
**so may our pain break the shell of isolation that protects us from
ourselves.**

In the security of darkness,
the warmth of sunshine,
the promise of fire,
**May we blossom anew
in the miracle of your saving love,
O God.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

God offers us many gifts through the same Spirit
so that, together, so new spaces where love can grow
is created. Trust that what you have to give, God will bless.
We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

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

MV #191

***Offertory Prayer**

God of abundance and overflowing love, we offer these gifts, both monetary and the gifts of our very selves, to you.

Use them and us to allow others to feel, see and experience the amazing fullness of your love for all creation. Like lava that flows and wine that overflows from jars, may these gifts reach places far and wide, bringing your grace and love to people who need it the most. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit,

to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1–11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Anthem

Sermon

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God,
Jesus brought the joy
into lives that needed hope and a new beginning.
We pray for all those who need a new beginning this year:
individuals trying to make a new start,
families trying to sort through difficulties,
groups hoping to accomplish good things for others,
refugees building new homes in a new land,
students and teachers beginning a new semester,
businesses and congregations trying to rebuild in uncertain times.

Silence

Show each one how much they matter to you,
and renew their courage and resolve to make a fresh start.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O God,
Jesus changed water into wine
to show us that you can accomplish extraordinary things through
ordinary lives.

We pray for all those volunteering their energy and concern
to make a difference for others in this community.

We pray for our elected leaders and for all government workers
trying to manage their responsibilities in such challenging times.

We pray for those working for justice,
raising awareness to problems in society and for the earth itself.

And we pray for one another
and for each good purpose we undertake with new resolve this
year.

Give us a glimpse of how our hands become your hands, blessed
by the Spirit.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O God,
Jesus faced the suffering around him with compassion,
reaching out to those in pain and grief with healing and hope.
We remember those whose lives are wrapped in sorrow or
despair, and those facing tragic death or critical illness.

Silence

We remember those rebuilding lives and communities after
flooding and storm
and all those burdened by pain or problems that seem to have no
end...

Silence

Embrace each one with your comfort and courage,
and show us what we can offer to make a difference.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O God in whom we live and move and have our being,
thank you for giving us the courage and commitment we need
to follow the way of Christ in good times and in hard times.
Thank you for the strength we find together as part of your
church and the gifts you give us in each other.
Help us trust in the promise of your love for us
and energize us with your Spirit
so that we can recognize the opportunities you give us
to live out the grace and mercy we know in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

MV #138

***Blessing**

God's love is overflowing.

God's gifts are abundant.

Go out into the world, overflowing with God's love and abundance,

so that everyone we meet can experience God's overflowing love for themselves. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.