

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

**January 23, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Third 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

This day is holy to the Lord your God.

**Let us come ready to see, hear and touch the Word of God.**

Do not mourn or weep, and do not be grieved.

**How can we be sad when we can experience God's Word  
and know God's love through our worship together?**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

**Let us come together to worship the God of joy, strength, and  
love.**

**\*Hymn** "We Praise You, O God"

VU #218

## Prayer of Approach

Holy God, Word- Giver:

in the gentle rain washing our upturned faces,

in trees dancing in the morning

we hear your joy;

**In the whisper of the wind, we overhear your dreams for us;**

in the silence of the night, we eavesdrop on your grace;

**in the prayers of the poor, we take notice of your compassion.**

Jesus the Christ, Perfect Word overcome our need to focus on  
ourselves

**so we might serve others.**

Make us humble enough to hear your good news

**and wise enough to live it.**

Enchant our hearts with your grace,  
**so we might weep with those around us.**

Holy Spirit, Cup Holder of Living Water: as we suffer together,  
**may we drink deeply of your compassion.**

As we rejoice together, as we pray together,  
**may our hearts feast on your love.**

As we worship together,  
**may we hear the word you have for us.**

God in community, God with us,  
**in these moments, as in every moment.**

*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 19

VU #740

**\*Hymn** “Your Love Is Amazing”

MV #26

## All God’s Children

**\*Hymn** “Your Love Is Amazing

MV #26

## A Litany

### *Wellspring of Our Lives*

Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,

as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike,

**refresh us with your mercy, who know our own injustice.**

As the stream flows steadily on, defying all the odds of stone and water,

**flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.**

As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,

**renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.**

As we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb,

**hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence.**

*from "The Pattern of Our Days, Worship in the Celtic Tradition from the Iona Community" Kathy Galloway*

## Presentation of Our Gifts

## Offertory Invitation

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are part of one body, each of us and all of us. The gifts we offer in Jesus’ name are all needed, each of them and all of them. Together, the body of Christ accomplishes many things through the gifts we share.

## **Offertory**

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

MV #191

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Creator God, you made each of us in our uniqueness,  
and together, all of us to bear your image in the world.  
Accept our gifts, unique as they are, and bless them. May they  
bear your grace and mercy into the world you love so your  
purposes will be fulfilled. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both women and men and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the women and the men and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law... And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,”

lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground... So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

#### **Luke 4:14–21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of life, God of love.

You created us and set us in relationship with each other:  
in families and neighbourhoods,  
in churches and communities,  
in cultures and nations.

We give you thanks for the rich gifts of arts and culture,  
of home life and community celebration  
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives.

Help us contribute our gifts  
to the traditions and imagination that sustain the best of our  
common life from one generation to the next.

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
you call us to live together in peace and unity.  
In this Week of Prayer for Christian unity,  
we pray that your Spirit will create understanding and co-  
operation among all who bear Christ's name.

Help us share our gifts with each other  
so that churches within our community may flourish

and our common mission will find new energy after months of challenge.

Lead us to reach out to those of other faiths and no faith so that, together, we may be a blessing in the world you love.

God of healing and hope,

we pray for our neighbourhoods and our nation.

Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment, show us how to work for reconciliation.

Inspire our leaders at every level of community life to work together for the care of the most vulnerable and to restore the goodness of our common life

as we recover from the effects of these months of pandemic.

Make us generous citizens and careful stewards of the land you entrust to us together.

God of justice and mercy,

we pray for the world you love, the world Christ died to redeem, so deeply divided by religious and political animosities, by ancient bitterness and current conflict.

Encourage world leaders to work for peace and understanding, especially in places torn by violence,

and areas still struggling with the effects of the pandemic, by poverty, hunger and the effects of natural disasters.

May the hope Jesus embodies encourage us all to work for positive change.

God of courage and comfort,

we remember those of our congregation and community

in need of your special attention today....

*Name people and local concerns.*

Use us as agents of your healing and hope  
as we offer ourselves in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn** "Deep in Our Hearts"

MV #154

**\*Benediction** *(attributed to St. Teresa of Avila)*

Christ has no body but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this  
world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you  
are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen.

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

### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.