

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

January 9, 2022

10:30 a.m.

The Baptism of the Lord

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 asked 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** "Oh A Song Must Rise"

MV #142 (Chorus)

Call to Worship

Come, and let us listen for the voice of God.

We hear God's voice in the water!

Water is cleansing and refreshing.

Water reminds us of our connectedness to Christ.

Baptism clears a way for new life.

Baptism is a reminder that we are God's people who are joined with all creation.

Let us worship the God of new life, new beginnings.

*Hymn "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

VU #395

Prayer of Approach

From the formless water God created life and called it good.

In the water of the River Jordan, John baptized Jesus, the source of living water.

Christ invites all who are thirsty to come and drink.

Baptism with water is a symbol of our life with and in Christ.

It reminds us that we are to welcome all to the living water.

As we gather today, we are invited once again to prepare our hearts and minds to drink the living water. 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 29

VU #756

***Hymn** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145 vv. 1, 2

All God’s Children

***Hymn** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV # 145 v. 3

Prayer of Confession

Each of us are deeply loved by God, but it is so very hard to live that kind love!

We do try, but often we fail to share unconditional love with all.

In the gift of water, the ritual of baptism, God reminds us that we can begin anew.

Even if we totally muck up, we know that God sets before us right paths.

God knows and loves us, we are God's beloved.

(A moment to allow God's unconditional love to hold us.)

community. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Anthem

Sermon

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of time and eternity:
as this new year stretches before us,
we thank you for the time you give us
and for all those things that are still possible and precious in this gift.

We thank you for each new day and all its possibilities;
for each night, its rest and reflection.
We thank you for words of forgiveness and the chance to make a new
start, for words of invitation to explore new opportunities.

Give us the courage to try something new
and the conviction to finish things leftover from last year.
Make time spent this year your time, O God.

Bless our time with you.

God of moments and memories

we remember before you people facing hard times in the months
ahead. We pray for those struggling with illness,
and for those facing treatment or surgery with uncertain results....

A silence is kept.

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of dear ones
and for all who remember what used to be but can no longer be...

A silence is kept.

God of hopefulness and helpfulness,

we remember those who are seeking new opportunities this year:
those training for new employments and those looking for work;
those developing new businesses and seeking the right employees;
potato farmers who are stress and challenged about the marketing of
their potatoes.

And those who provide services to improve life in our communities
amid the uncertainties around us...

A time of silence is kept.

Give us wisdom and perseverance in what we undertake as a
congregation in the face of all the changes in our community.

As we work together with the vision of your kingdom before us this year,
fill us with love and generosity that can change the world because of
your blessing and our response.

We pray we can make a difference in even the most challenging
situations

because we are the people of your beloved Child, a people of the
water. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “River Running in You and Me”

MV #163

***Blessing**

Let us depart, beloved of God
showered in abundant blessings,
seeking the reflection of Christ in all we meet,
and being a reflection of Christ to all we greet. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.