

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

July 31, 2022

10:30 a.m.

8th 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

**We come here from the world
whose predominant song tells us
that we do not have enough -
that we do not buy enough -
we are not enough.**

**Here we re-learn God's wisdom -
that we have enough if we share;
that security cannot be found in the marketplace;
that we are always enough.**

**Centre us once again, Holy God.
Ground us in your love.
Grow us towards your sense of abundance:
abundant listening
act of love
fullest life.**

**Through our worship today,
may we hear your still small voice.**

***Hymn** "God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness"

VU #260

Opening Prayer

**God of justice and joy,
as we gather for worship this day,
we join with your whole creation in praise and celebration.
We sense your wonder in the grandeur of open skies and the
expanding horizon.**

**We sense the breath of new life in growing gardens
and growing children.**

**We trust your gift of new life in Christ, moving us to greater
courage and compassion.**

**Your Spirit blows through us like a fresh breeze in the breath of
prayer.**

**Fill us with a sense of your love in this hour, O God,
to renew in us a greater love for you
and our care for your creation.**

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 107:1–9, 43

VU #831 Part One

***Hymn** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37 v. 3

Call to Confession

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Blessing, blessed God,
we pray to you for "our daily bread," for what we need.
But in our worrying, we crave evermore.
In our fear that there may not be enough,
we desire more than we need.
In our hope to evade trouble,
we look for refuge and rescue in amassing
more and more things.
Forgive us, dear God, for the times when our anxieties
out-weigh our sense.
Forgive us when we think of ourselves but forget to think of
others.**

Assurance of Amazing Love

**God is our refuge, our rock, our strength.
God hears a contrite heart,
and we know ourselves set free!
Thanks be to God!**

but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.
My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the LORD,
who roars like a lion;

when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west.
They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

Luke 12:13–21

Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God in whom we live and move and have our being
we come to you in prayer in midsummer,
thankful for the occasions we have enjoyed so far
to catch up with family and friends;
to travel for recreation and restoration;
to enjoy the beauty of nature in landscapes we love.
Thank you for every moment of joy we treasure.

Today we remember those for whom this summer is difficult:
for communities worried about wildfires;
for areas facing drought or the effects of flooding;
for those worried about uncertainty in the economy and the
impact of the climate crisis.

Silence

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company,

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all:

Bring healing, bring peace.

O God, in Jesus Christ you walk the road of suffering with us,
reaching out to those in pain and in grief.

We remember those whose lives have faced crises this summer:

Through tragic death and unexpected loss...

Through critical illness or injury...

Through pain or problems that seem to have no end....

Silence.

Surround them with your comfort and compassion

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all:

Bring healing, bring peace.

O God, Jesus faced demanding crowds as he traveled,
and the pressure of critics, whatever he did.

We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:

Those juggling more demands and fewer resources
at work or at home.

Those whose work or plans for the future are uncertain,
those fleeing conflict and seeking new homes in despair and hope.

Silence

May they know your strength and assurance day by day,

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all:

Bring healing, bring peace.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence,
each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and
peace to others in the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Take My Life and Let It Be"

VU #506

***Benediction**

As we have been led by cords of human kindness, let us live connected to all creation. As we have been freed, may we pursue liberty for all. As we have known God's gracious love, may we embody God's abundant love. Amen.

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

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.