

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

June 19, 2022

10:30 a.m.

2nd After Pentecost

Fathers Day

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 Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 vv.1, 2

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 42)

As a deer longs for flowing streams of water, our souls reach out to seek our God.

Where is our God? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the predictability of a faucet.

With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our God.

Where is our God? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living God.

Where is our God? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us. Let us open our heart, minds and souls to God in worship.

***Hymn** "God Is Here"

VU #389

Opening Prayer

Holy Wisdom, we hear you calling us to gather and to hope in your name. Ignite sacred courage in us to proclaim the good news of justice from the comfort of the sanctuary to the public witness of the city gates. Inspire a compelling vision of a gracious, beloved and empowered community that propels us to confront inequities, challenge privilege, and participate in your creative work in our time. Renew our hope for humanity so that we might rejoice in this inhabited world and delight in our siblings.

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 42-43

VU #768

***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 of Confession

Holy and Gracious God, fear seeks to be our constant companion. It stifles us with its overwhelming presence and prolific imagination. Fear surrounds us and blocks our vision and your path. Fear keeps us from picking up our cross as much as it

suppresses our joy in you. Fear invites us to believe the easy lie rather than confronting the hard truths necessary for your kingdom to come. Too often, we cast off your perfect love in favor of insidious fear. Forgive us for choosing fear when we could live in your presence, and your way as our companion on our journey. Empower us to reject fear and all that fall complicit in dampening your truth. Amen.

Assurance of Amazing Love

New life awaits us as “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). Receive grace, embrace transformation and enter the newness of life in which Christ fashions our struggles and our fears into character and hope.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The gifts of God come generously and abundantly. We hold, nurture and amplify them as they are entrusted to our care. We respond faithfully by sharing them for the good of community and creation. In this act of faith and trust, we transform our resources of time, talent, and finances into the good news in the world.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** “You Nourish Us”

VU #545

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks, God Our Help, for the abundance of the gifts you have planted in us as seeds that we may share in bloom. May these offerings be received and magnified for your glory. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Galatians 3:23–29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8:26–39

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most

High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the earth and all its peoples,
in Jesus Christ, you proclaimed the good news
that true life and peace are found in you.

Guide your church to proclaim this good news
not in ways that merely please people or don't ruffle feathers,
but in ways that bring Christ's reconciling love to divided
communities and lives out of joint with each other.

Shine your light into the world's hidden corners,
exposing violence, exploitation, bigotry.

Reveal what dehumanizes the vulnerable and degrades your
creation.

God of the earth and all its peoples,

Let your light shine!

God of healing and hope,

We pray for all those who are ill or in pain,

for the anxious and discouraged,

for those facing death or the loss of someone dearly beloved,

and for those struggling to make ends meet in these uncertain
times.

silence

On this National Indigenous Sunday,

we pray for indigenous communities across this land.

Grant them wisdom and healing as they address the needs of their people. Bring healing to those who remember painful experiences and build bridges of understanding among us all.

silence.

We pray for the United Church and its partners as they work to bring healing and hope to places of strife and deprivation.

Add your specific prayers

May the mission we share in Jesus' name shine the light of your love into desperate lives.

God of the earth and all its peoples,

Let your light shine!

God of the faithful future,

bless this community of faith, Central Queens United, and guide us as we plan for the future in changing times.

Bless students and teachers as another challenging school year ends and lift the stress from their lives this summer.

Give us a time of rest and enjoyment in the summer months and restore our hope and our energy to serve in your world.

God of the earth and all its peoples,

Let your light shine!

We offer all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus, who is our Christ. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Healer of Our Every Ill”

VU #619

***Benediction**

May peace be with you as you confront lies with truth and fear with hope. May the Abiding One strengthen you to stand in truth and hope. May the Living Water refresh you with new streams of righteousness. May Wisdom be the voice you follow now as you go out into the world, encouraged and embolden, and renewed. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Peace Be with You”

MV #215

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.