

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

May 15, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Let everything that is, praise our God!

Left side: let all people praise God.

Right side: let the oceans praise God.

Left side: left mountains and hills praise God.

Right side: that trees of the forest praise God.

Left side: let wild animals praise God.

Right side: that all the birds praise God.

**All: let all people come to this place,
and together let us praise God!**

***Hymn** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

VU #574

Opening Prayer

**Loving God, we are in awe
of how you made all things new:
even in the midst of humdrum and every day,
you bring forth new life.
Even when we think we know the answers,
you bring fresh questions.
Even when we are unsure of tomorrow,
you bring New Hope and promises.
Maybe respond with joy
at the way in which you make all things new.**

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 148 (Sung)

VU# 870

***Hymn "Jesus Loves Me"**

VU #365 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn "Jesus Loves Me"**

VU #365 v. 3

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Awe and Harmony-

We were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, in some crazy way, we have made the giving of love conditional. Why do we continue to distort our view of Divine Love? How can we return to a simple but radical way of loving? Transform our hearts as we work to understand and appreciate one another, creating an earth, and community which reflects God's heaven. Amen.

An Amazing Love

If we are open and willing, the Spirit of God can heal our hearts, blessing us with grace as the Divine One works to transform our world, our church, our community into a realm of peace and joy. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

We have the tools we need to love one another. Through our talents, treasures, and time, we can create God's Realm here on earth. Our contributions – no matter the size – will craft a world which reflects God's love. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** “Deep in Our Hearts” MV #154 v. 2

Offertory Prayer

**Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-
We glorify you by sharing our gifts of love with this community.
We celebrate your presence by caring for your creation. May
these offerings today nourish a world craving more love,
peace, justice, and hope. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

John 13:31–35

A new commandment: love one another.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord our God,
you have given us so many wonders in this world you created.
We thank you for spring sunshine and refreshing rain;
for colours exploding in blossoms opening,
grass greening, and gardens sprouting.

Thank you for all the signs of new life around us this Easter season.

Make the earth fruitful in this growing season,
so that food will be plentiful for the hungry.

God of new life,
we pray that we might learn to care for our planet as your gift.
We pray for scientists and all those who work tirelessly
to teach us how to look after the environment.
Renew their energy for the responsibilities they carry.

We pray for leaders in government, business and communities,
that they will make care for the earth a priority
for the sake of generations yet to come.
Inspire each of us to do all we can,
no matter how small or insignificant our efforts may seem,
to walk more respectfully on the face of your creation.

God of the small and insignificant as well as powerful and
influential,
we thank you for our families and friends
who offer us love and encouragement as we move through life.
We pray for those families and communities
whose lives have been disrupted by war and conflict,
who worry about safety each day
and what the future will hold for them.

Silence, adding more specific prayers as needed.

Guide all those with decision making power
to consider the lives of the vulnerable as very precious,
and make policies that protect the future for them.

God of the vulnerable,
we pray for all those whose future is uncertain:
for those are facing illness or waiting for treatment,
for those mourning the loss of someone dear,
and those who feel lonely or discouraged.

Silence.

We pray for those who are homeless or unemployed,
for all who know hunger or despair,
and for those facing danger or discrimination every day.

Silence.

Empower us with your Spirit to reach out to those in need,
in this community and in places distant from us,
so that we can make your love tangible in their lives.

God of Jesus the Christ,
We thank you for this community that gathers in you,
for the warmth and welcome offered here,
for friendship and faithfulness discovered,
for learning and leadership shared with each other.
Thank you for the hope that rises in us
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Make us expressions of that hope to each other
and to the world you love,
as we join our hearts with all those who profess our faith in you.
Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Love Is the Touch”

MV #89

***Benediction**

As the week begins again,
may we dance as we celebrate God’s presence.
May we sing as we proclaim Christ’s love.
May we create as we embrace the Spirit’s vision.
May we love boldly, care radically, and share courageously to
glorify the Spirit of God in our midst. Amen!

***Choral Benediction** “Dance With the Spirit”

MV #156

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.