

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

May 22, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Sixth 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 the Creator find a home among us

In our hearts, may God be welcome

May God's love shape our every thought

May our actions lead to God's justice

May our words be words of life

May God's Spirit lead us

May God's peace dwell within us

in our worship and our work.

***Hymn** "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

VU #213

Opening Prayer

God of promise and purpose,

we greet you this day with thankful hearts.

As flowers unfurl and buds open,

the beauty of your world lifts our spirits in praise.

As children grow and students prepare to graduate,

their energy and enthusiasm encourage us toward your future.

Your world is full of such variety and detail,

we stand in awe of your creative imagination.

Draw close to us in this hour of worship

and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives.

May we unfurl with your gift of new life,

and move into the future, renewed by the energy of your Holy Spirit.

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 67

VU# 786

***Hymn** "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

VU #299 vv. 1, 2, 3

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

VU #299 v. 4

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**We have not yet learned to love as you love.
We have spoken praise in our mouths
when our hearts were far from you.
The gifts you gave for our peace
we have weaponized.**

**Yet, even in our failings
your love has never failed us
even when we turned you away.
You still choose to make your home among us.
Our hearts are troubled;
we are enmeshed in fear.
Creation needs you.
Our families need you.
Our streets need you.
Our cities need you.
The soil needs you.
Our souls need you.
Heal us,
forgive us,
make us whole again.**

Silence

An Amazing Love

Beloved of God, hear the good news.
God's faithfulness is sure
God's love will not fail us
in accordance with God's lovingkindness
You are liberated
You are welcomed
You are home
**Glory to love of God.
Amen.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Our God does not give as the world gives
In the chaos, God is our peace
In our fear, God is our confidence
In our weakness, God is our strength
Let us offer our gifts to God

We do so with Thanks.

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

**May these gifts be used to build the Beloved Community
through our hands of service,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John's vision of the city of God.

And in the spirit I was carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God... Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship the Holy; they will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to

him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord, our God,
The earth and all its peoples belong to you.
As we come before you in prayer,
we are painfully aware that the earth itself is at risk,
from the ways your people live on it,
and the conflicts we provoke among each other.
We seek your healing and hope this day,
for the earth and all its creatures,
and for your people of every nation.

God of healing and hope,
we pray for peace with justice to emerge in war torn lands,
and in every place of conflict where power struggles put
innocents at risk.

Send your Spirit of wisdom and compassion
to soften the hearts of leaders to work with each other

to protect the innocent and restore order for the wellbeing of all.
May your ways of truth and justice prevail
in every heart and in every land.

God of mercy,

Hear our cry.

God of healing and hope,

We pray for the renewal of your creation
and for the protection of species at risk.

By your Spirit, teach us to change our ways when they are harmful
to the earth, and inspire our ingenuity to find solutions to
problems that seem so vast.

God of mercy,

Hear our cry.

God of healing and hope,

We pray for those who know sickness or pain,
for all who live in grief, loneliness or anxiety,
and all who find these uncertain times overwhelming in any way.

In silence, we remember before you those for whom we have
special concern this day:

silence

By your Spirit, surround each one with strength and love,
and equip us to offer support for those whose lives are woven
into ours.

God of mercy,

Hear our cry.

God of healing and hope,

God walks with us day by day to see us through every challenge, and so we claim the healing and hope offered to each of us this day. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** Worship the Lord

VU #401 1, 2, 3 & 5

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
Raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

1. Raising our hand as a sing of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one.

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
Raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

2. Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
Raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

3. Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
Raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

5. Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, O God, to offering our living,
seeking a just and healing society,
worship and work must be one.

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
Raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

***Benediction**

May the love of God go with us.

May God's love saturate our memories.

May God's love overwhelm us.
God is love.
As we carry God's love within us,
may we carry God's love to the world around us.
Go forth in the love of God. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Dance With the Spirit"

MV #149

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.