

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

May 29, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Seventh 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 every creature in heaven and on earth shout to God and sing with joy!

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever!

Let us raise our prayers and praises to God in worship this day!

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

***Hymn** "Sing a Happy Hallelujah"

VU #224

Opening Prayer

**Loving and gracious God,
you call us to this place and time
that we might worship you,
that we might feel your presence
especially close to us,
and that we might be encouraged
by the spirit of community
that is in this place.**

**Bless this worship,
made enliven us and encourage us,
and may we go from here refreshed
by your living water.**

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 97

VU #817

*Hymn "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

VU #575 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

*Hymn "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

VU #575 vv. 3, 4

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

For all the times we misuse others,
when we exploit people solely for our own gain,
we ask forgiveness, O God.

For the times when we judge others
and put them down because of who they are

or where they come from,
we ask forgiveness, O God.

For the times when we think only of ourselves
and don't ponder the consequences of our actions,
we ask forgiveness, O God.

For the times when we expect others
to bear unfairly the burdens of others,
we ask forgiveness, O God.

When we do these things,
we are not truly your people, O God.

Forgive us, we pray. Amen

Silence

An Amazing Love

Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are not slaves, we are liberated from all that holds us captive. Realize it, believe it and live!

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Little things we do can make a difference in other people's lives, even when we might think our act to be small and insignificant. What we give can make a difference, even if we might fear the gift is too small. No gift is too small, no action is too insignificant, that it cannot make a difference when placed in God's hands. Let us present our offering.

Offertory

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

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, you invite all who are thirsty to come and drink from the waters of life. Use our gifts, our time, our talents, to spread that good news, that all who are thirsty - for justice, for new life, for another chance, for glimpse of hope - may find it. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Acts 16:16–34

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates,

they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

John 17:20-26

“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Faithful God,
we give you thanks for your steadfast love
that provides courage and comfort for your people in every
challenging time.

Continue to surprise us with your grace, O God,
and breathe your Spirit upon your church once more,

to draw us together in worship and witness.

Renew our faith so that we may serve you with courage and creativity, offering the hope we know in Christ Jesus to this struggling world.

God of peace,

thank you for sending Jesus into the world,

to reconcile the world to you through the forgiveness of our sins.

May the fruits of the reconciliation and peace he offers continue to work in places of hatred and hostility.

Today we name before you the places on our minds and hearts these days, and relationships in need of your reconciling grace:

O God, do not let us be resigned to injustice or indifference.

Inspire us to build renewed relationships in these days of deepening divisions.

God of fellowship,

we pray for our church and our community.

Renew our life together as we gather again socially as the pandemic shifts around us.

Inspire our congregation with a fresh vision for our ministry.

Comfort those who mourn the loss of dear ones,
and support those who are sick,

and those recovering from setbacks or failure.

Give strength to people who are worn out or discouraged,
and calm the anxiety or anger that can keep us apart.

Bless and encourage any who are struggling in their faith,
and guide those with questions to your truth.

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

MV #149

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.