

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

May 8, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mothering Sunday

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

Calling to Mind

We will begin, not with a Call to worship, but with a Calling to mind...

Call to mind someone you love. Close your eyes and imagine: the shape of her eyes, the curve of his smile, the sound of their laughter...

Call to mind ... the way he smells, the way she feels – and the look they give you that says ‘I’ve had enough’...

If you can hold that face, that feeling, that love, then consider this:

One hundred trillion cells, seven million years of evolution, forty weeks of gestation, years of love and lessons and laughter – tears too no doubt – have gone into that person you brought to mind who holds your heart – what a wonder.

Think on it...

And now, think on this:

The planet holds over seven billion souls – every single one a unique one-off, never-to-be-repeated-ever creation: the creative imagination of the divine is reflected in every face. The Spirit of God is in every first and last and in-between breath.

Mother God, thank you for our family – as vast as the ocean, as intimate as a face, a smell, a touch, a look, a feeling ...

(Pause)

Still unable to keep silent, you birth the wonders that come into being – in our hearts, in our hands, all our days, all the days that are.

And when our days are ended, you wrap yourself around us, scoop us up and cradle us home. You will not forget us, cannot forget us, any more than a mother – eternally love-struck – can forget the baby at her breast, the child of her heart, the love of her life ...

Midwife of our every moment, embodying eternity,
Holy, wholly Spirit ...breathe your life in us.

Reflective Music

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging. In response to God’s blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

Offertory

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

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all people. We pray. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Isaiah 49:13-16a

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted the people,
and will have compassion on those who are suffering.
But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her nursing child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;...

Matthew 23:37-39

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Anthem

Sermon "A Nurturing God, A Nurturing Community."

Reflective Music

Prayer

Before you were born,
my body held you in secret.
As you learned to walk,
I held your hand.
When you let go
and ventured out into your bright new day, I held my breath.

**Bone of my bone ...
flesh of my flesh ...
beat of my heart ...
spark of eternity ...
gift to the world ...**

you were never mine to hold on to forever, but my heart can't
help it.

Child of mine, wherever you go,
my love, my life, my dreams
and the constant whisper of my prayers, go with you.

Sung Response

**Bless the Lord, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Mothering God, we hear you calling:

**'Bone of my bone ...
flesh of my flesh ...
beat of my heart ...
spark of eternity ...
gift to the world ...**

come home. Come home.'

God our mother,
your voice echoes all around us.
We catch hints of your pleading in the cries of the hungry,
snatches of your pleasure in the laughter of our children,
new verses of your song in every dawn chorus.
Mother of all, we share the breath of your creative spirit and your
imprint is on every soul.
Teach us to see you in each other.

**Holy, wholly Spirit,
forgive us when we wander away:**

when we forget who we are and why we're here –
when we fragment ourselves and forget that we are family.
Gather us again under your wings and under the roof of your
heaven that we may open the doors of our hearts to each other
and share this planet-home.

Mother, we hear you calling:

**'Bone of my bone ...
flesh of my flesh ...
beat of my heart ...
spark of eternity ...
gift to the world ...
come home. Come home.'** **Amen**

Silence

Sung Response

**Bless the Lord, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Would You Bless Our Homes and Families” VU #556

***Benediction**

In baptism you name us your beloved children, kin to one another. As we go from this place, may we know your love that found expression in the most vulnerable of human form: guide us, sustain us, and empower us to nurture and love. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “Dance With the Spirit” MV #156

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

Liturgy written by Sally Foster-Fulton (Adapted)
Wild Goose Publications.