

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

September 11, 2022

10:30 a.m.

14th After Pentecost

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

Come, Beloved of God, the blistering wind of life is not the end.

May the eye of the storm still us into wholeness and hope.

May the wind of God, turn us around toward trust in Holy promises.

May our promises to God be pressed anew into our hearts and minds.

May everything of excess be released and refined for Love's good work.

May God's vision of a world made new arise from God's wind in and through us.

Come then, and feel the winds of God in our time of worship and praise. This is the Day!

***Hymn** "This Is the Day"

VU #412

Opening Prayer

O Holy Wind of God, sweep through our lives. Pause us into your presence, slowing our breathless pace. Refine in us a renewed willingness to bear gracious goodness into the chaos of this hurting world. Let our worship on this day, call forth an alternative to the easy response of violence for violence; hate for hate; hurt for hurt. Form instead, a steady commitment to return love in the face of fear, hope in the midst of despair, and mercy for every brokenness of the world's design. By this, form anew the heart and mind of Christ in us, here, now, today.

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 14

VU #735

***Hymn** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

MV #30 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

MV #30 vv. 3, 4

Call to Confession

Experiencing the newness of God requires us to be open to God, to reflect upon our lives lived, and to be lived. Finding the ways of God often times required changes in our ways. May we find a refreshing openness, as we pray for transformation and new life.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

O God, have mercy on me because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been my daily detour. Wash me inside and out with the shower of your love because my life carries a residue of regret I cannot shake loose on my own. I know myself too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to me. Now take every burden that crushes and form in me a new creation. Take every iniquity and instill your sweet song of forgiveness. Let your wisdom rise in my mind and your mercy in my heart that I may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mend not only me but the world. And may your loving truth form a new creation in us all. Amen.

Assurance of Amazing Love

Hear this good news: God's memory of our misdeeds and misdirection is short. But God's loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ Jesus, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent, power. By this, God has forgiven us and invites you and me to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our life with others. Thanks be to God!

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Our lives are gifts not of our making. But by our consent to Love's deep desire we are indeed remade. God is generous in this way, searching out every lost sheep or coin or beloved child until the fullness of joy rises in celebration. So we are invited to share in the sacred savouring that comes with self-giving that begins and ends in God. May our yes of giving grow Love's delight in us. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" VU #544

(Tune: Forest Green VU 518)

Offertory Prayer

Listening for the Word

Sacred Word

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

"For my people are foolish;
they do not know me;

they are unwise;
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil
but do not know how to do good.”

I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,
and to the heavens, and they had no light.
I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.
I looked, and there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.
I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before God's fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet
I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn
and the heavens above grow black,
for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

Luke 15:1–10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the Scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O Love, stretch wide my heart, open my mind, saturate my soul
and form me anew in the gift of this day.

Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in my path at every
turn.

Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all around
and within this body not of my making,
but given by you to steward your love for a season short or long.

"Yes...thank you...Love," let this be my prayer, even as words fail
to capture you in me and in all creation

seen and unseen and beyond what eye can see

But which soul can sense in silences beyond words.

Yes, Love, stretch wide my heart for this. And thank-you.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Long Before the Night"

VU #282

***Benediction**

May the wind of God be strong in you. May it be neither too little
nor too much for the gift of each day that is your life.

May it be strong enough to deepen your root in God.

May it be gentle enough for you to catch the breath of life.

May it teach us how to breathe the grace and peace of
Christ into the life of the world, multiplying this blessing
over and over again.

Blessings on you, beloved of God!

***Choral Benediction** “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” MV #115

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.