

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

**September 25, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**16th 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 to this place and time of promise.

**We are becoming the house of hope,  
the field of sunflowers,  
the vineyard of great caring.**

Come to a shared commitment  
to abundance possible for all people.

**We are an earthenware jar,  
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.  
Our security question is – the word of God,  
and our password is love.**

**\*Hymn** “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”

MV #10

## Opening Prayer

**God, we give you thanks that you make us liberators, not just receivers of liberation. You bring us among friends and then ask for each one of our signatures to change your world. We hold the earthenware jar you call the church and fill it with all your promises.**

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 91:1–6, 14–16**

VU # 807

**\*Hymn “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”**

VU #605 v.1

## **All God's Children**

**\*Hymn “Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold”**

VU #605 v.2

*Children may retire to Sunday School*

## **Call to Confession**

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**God, I have defaulted to no-hope in my life  
and I have encouraged no-hoping in others.  
I have criticized plans before hearing them out**

**and I have turned to family, church,  
friends, colleagues with my face painted,  
“we’ve tried that before  
and it didn’t work.”**

**Together we have laughed at new ideas  
and circulated only bad news.**

**Plant your promises deep in the field of our lives,  
and forgive us our presuming to define your future. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Amazing Love**

God wipes pessimism from the open heart and sends others to affirm in us even the most fragile possibilities of the future. We are forgiven.

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Generosity**

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

#### **Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering “In Gratitude and Humble Trust” VU #544**

*(Tune: Forest Green VU 518)*

## Offertory Prayer

**God, we have received hope; we give you time. We have received hope; we give one another the church. We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they may become the change or simply the promise of change among those who need this clear image that they are not abandoned. Amen**

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Word

#### **Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

### **Luke 16:19–31**

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your

good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of mystery and wonder,  
we look around at the beauty of this world  
and the worlds beyond us,  
and sense that you have given each precious thing its place  
and a way to sustain itself.

Thank you for the care you hold for your whole creation.

We also look around at the aching of the world

and sense that many precious things are under threat.

Too many pieces of your creation have fallen out of balance with  
each other.

Show us how we can help restore that balance  
and protect what is at risk for the health of your whole creation.  
God of all creatures great and small,

**make us stewards of what is precious to you.**

God of energy and life,  
we look around at the peoples of this world  
and see your image and dignity in every variety of face and  
culture.

Thank you for the care you hold for all humankind.

Yet we look around at the people of this world  
and see the aching of the hungry and hurting;  
we hear the groans of parents whose children die in their arms  
and feel the tears of children whose parents die too soon.

We know neighbours who are suffering  
and hear of strangers who can't imagine how to make it through  
tomorrow.

Awaken our generosity to offer what healing and hope we can  
to the lives you cherish in every neighbourhood and nation.

God of all creatures great and small,

**make us stewards of what is precious to you.**

God of promise and possibility,  
we look around at places where people collide with each other.  
We hear the grumbling of nations locked into old rivalries and  
grievances.

We watch the jousting of leaders impressed more by polls than effective policies.

We worry about the future of our communities and our children.

We hear your call to do justice and live generously.

Guide us as citizens to act for justice that brings peace and well being to communities near and far.

Bless the ministries supported by United Church folk sharing across Canada and around the world,  
and grow in us the interest and intention to contribute to this outreach. God of all creatures great and small,

**make us stewards of what is precious to you.**

God of faithfulness and surprise,

We look at ourselves

and sometimes doubt we can make a difference or have an impact.

Challenge us to recognise the kinds of power we do have:

the love and compassion,

the courage and commitment,

the laughter and friendship,

the generosity and mercy

you inspire within us.

In all these gifts we know your power.

Through all these gifts, our lives have been changed.

Using these gifts in our lives,

bring Christ's love and mercy to the world you love. Amen.

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn** “God, Who Touches Earth With Beauty” VU #310

### **\*Benediction**

May you be as blessed as Jeremiah –  
with a word-of-God whisper when you are waiting,  
a glimpse of freedom when you are confined,  
a friend to show you the way forward,  
an earthenware jar of God’s love  
in which your signature is precious. Amen.

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

### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.