

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

February 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Central Queens Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the 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)

Bible Presentation

***Introit** "Come All You People"

MV #2

Call to Worship

How blessed are we when we meditate on God's teachings;
and when we desire God with our whole hearts.

Let us praise God with attentive minds and eager spirits,
for we are God's servants, working and praying together.

So let us worship God and praise God's holy name.

Let us seek God's path and listen for God's call.

***Hymn** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

VU #220

Prayer of Approach

**God of all life and each life,
you are the light of minds that seek to know you.
You are strength for those who seek to serve you.
You reveal truth to those who search for you.
In worship, we pause in your presence,
resting from our work and responsibilities,
from our worries and distractions.
We come to enjoy your presence
and praise you for the gift of life in Christ and in creation.
Receive our prayers and praise this day,
for we open our hearts in love and loyalty to you,
O God, our All in All. Amen.**

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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 119:1–8

VU # 838 Part One

***Hymn “To Show by Touch and Word”**

VU #427 vv. 1-2

All God’s Children

***Hymn “To Show by Touch and Word”**

VU #427 v. 3

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**God who is all in all,
you call us to choose life and walk in your ways,
but we are tempted by short cuts and easy solutions.
You ask us to turn from anger and settle our differences,
but we cling to grievances and point fingers at others.
You ask us to be true to our word,
but we prefer to keep everyone happy.**

Sacred Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21–37

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say,

“You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Concerning Adultery

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Concerning Divorce

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Concerning Oaths

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of Life and Love,
in spoken words and in the silence of our hearts,
we give you thanks for all of life,
for the grace you provide to creation in its diversity,
and for your loving kindness known in the details of our lives.
Hear us, we pray, as we speak of matters on our hearts and minds this
day:

Where the church is divided by squabbling or deep disagreement,
where Christians emphasize our differences instead of seeking unity in
Christ, where we put energy into guarding tradition at the expense of
honouring new life and relationships with our neighbours:
transform us and make all things new.

Where families are divided by old hurts or new tensions,
where friendships have ended through misunderstanding or neglect,
where relationships have been severed by betrayal or thoughtlessness:
transform us and make all things new.

Where countries are torn by war and conflict,
where communities are divided by prejudice or unexamined privilege,
where leaders provoke anger instead of building understanding
co-operation: transform us and make all things new.

Where the poor and lonely find little support or comfort,
where people are tired from overwork or pressured by rising costs;
where workers fear for their jobs in the present or the future;
transform us and make all things new.

Where people suffer pain with physical, emotional or spiritual roots,
where loss marks the beginning and ending of every day,
where young people fear for the future of the planet
and their elders mourn the loss of what they once assumed would last:
transform us and make all things new.

God, our Source and Saviour, in Christ you make all things new.
Hear our prayers. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Jesus Christ is Waiting" VU #117

***Blessing**

Go with joy and peace, to claim new life as you serve God and one another. And may the blessing of God who is Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life be with you and those whose lives you touch, this day and always. Amen.

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

MV #156

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.