

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

**February 5, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Fifth 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** "We Are Marching"

VU #646 v.1

## Call to Worship

Called to be light,  
**we would carry God's hope into  
the shadows of the world.**

Called to be salt,  
**we would enhance the lives  
of those around us, with joy.**

Called to live in God's reality,  
**we would welcome everyone  
as sisters and brothers in faith.**

**\*Hymn** "Arise, Your Light is Come"

VU #79

## Prayer of Approach

**Holy One, Light of the world,  
in the sparkle of the snowflake, we see your beauty.  
In frosted treetops, we delight in your splendour.  
Even in the cold of winter, your creation amazes us.  
We praise you for blessing the world with such beauty  
and giving us a place within it.**

**Just as months of winter renew creation for springtime growth,  
renew us with your Spirit in this time of worship  
to grow in faithfulness and service.**

**Grant that our lives can shine the light of Christ into these  
challenging times.**

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 112:1–10**

**VU #834**

**\*Hymn "Jesus Bids Us Shine"**

**VU #585 vv.1, 2**

**All God's Children**

**\*Hymn "Jesus Bids Us Shine"**

**VU #585 v.3**

**Call to Transformation and New Life**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Holy One,  
we confess we have taken much for granted.  
We squander resources as if they were only for us.  
We consume whatever we want, selfishly and carelessly.**



## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Scripture

#### Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
'Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

### **Matthew 5:13–20**

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of justice and righteousness,  
thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the Christ who understood  
your love most fully. Thank you for his words and deeds  
which continue to challenge and guide us today.  
He called us to be light for the world and salt for the earth.  
We thank you for the ministries undertaken through United  
Church and its many partners around the world,  
for the light they bring to lives under so many different pressures,  
and the necessities they provide to sustain communities  
and make hope tangible. And so we pray for your world with all its  
wonders and its worries, which rest on our hearts and yours:

We pray for those who need your justice:  
for those who sleep on the cold streets,  
those who do not have enough to eat,  
and those who worry about how to make ends meet for their  
families.

We pray for all those facing violence,  
in their homes or communities,  
for nations engulfed in conflict  
and for places struggling to recover after flooding, drought, storm  
or unrest.

We pray for refugees and political prisoners;  
for children who must work instead of going to school  
and for parents who long to give their children a better life.



Sustain each of these people with your hope  
that their needs can be fulfilled and rights restored.  
Empower us to use our resources to do what we can for them,  
and give strength and courage to advocates and aid workers  
who bring hope to birth in many places.

We pray for all who need your healing touch:  
for people who are confused or afraid,  
for those in hospitals and nursing homes and those who care for  
them, for all who are dealing with long-term disability or mental  
illness, long Covid and the many illnesses circulating this winter.  
and for those who have encountered loss through the death of a  
beloved, change in circumstance or disappointed hopes.

Surround each one with your peace and comfort  
so that hope for healing will be renewed each day.

Compassionate God,  
make us salt and light for the world, not by presuming we know  
best how to fix others but as compassionate and caring  
neighbours, unafraid to reach out.  
Encourage us with your grace and inspire us by your Holy Spirit,  
for you are always with us. Amen.

### **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn**      “Be Thou My Vision”

VU #642

## **\*Blessing**

To those huddled in the shadows of fear and worry,

**God sends us to be light.**

To those whose lives and hopes have lost all flavour,

**Jesus sends us to be salt.**

To a society where love is tossed aside as easily as fast food dishes,

**Spirit sends us to be faithful carers of everyone we meet.**

Go and your faith as disciples of the Christ.

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

MV #156

## **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.