

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

July 2, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Fifth 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 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** "In the Lord" (Taize) X4

**In the Lord
I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God,
Do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices,
The Lord is near;
Lift up your voices,
The Lord is near.**

Call to Worship

O Sing to God a song of joy,
for we have been greeted by our God.
O Dance for God a waltz of welcome,
for we have been embraced by our God.
O Create for God a portrait of hope,
for we have been inspired by our God.
Come then, dance, waltz and sing into our time of worship.

***Hymn** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

VU 371

Prayer of Approach

**You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Kin-dom,
ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your
new Realm. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of
your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your
encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a
world filled with harsh tones.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Prophet, Divine Warmth, creating a home for strangers and friends can often take extra effort. From the extra cleaning to food preparations, we spend extra time, talents and treasures to care for your children. Sometimes, we often do not feel as if we have the energy to go the extra distance – to ensure the drinks are cold and our homes are cozy. Give us an extra boost in our bodies, minds and souls to be the welcome team in your Kin-dom. May we embrace divine hospitality as we care for the ones struggling the most, the ones caring for your creation, and the ones speaking prophetically for you. Amen.

Assurance of God's unending Love

God continues to welcome us into the Divine Realm even when we walk past its doorway. God's magnificent grace will refresh our hearts, inspiring us to return again. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

The Realm of God asks for us to care for our neighbours: from the children who are thirsty to the prophets and other caregivers who need a place to rest. This is our opportunity to use our treasures, talents and time to ensure all have what they need. May we reflect on the ways we can share and give as we are able.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “You Nourish Us”

VU 545

***Offertory Prayer**

Spirit of God,

When we share from our souls, we open our hearts to your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbours who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build your Kin-dom here on earth. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Genesis 22:1–14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out

and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

Matthew 10:40–42

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of heaven and earth,
with joy and thanksgiving, we praise you
for you create, sustain, and redeem all things.
For making us in your image
to love one another and to care for your creation,
we give you thanks.
For the gift of Jesus
whose life is the pattern for our lives and learning,
we give you thanks.
For the energy of your Spirit
to inspire us in times of challenge and change,
we give you thanks.

Strengthen us in these challenging times to show your love to others as we pray:
for the Church and those who lead it
to find new ways of reaching out in a
culture with changing values...

For creation that we may learn to reverence and care for it . . .

For those who lead the nations of the world
that they may work for the wellbeing of the most vulnerable and
seek peace together. . .

For those who make decisions about health care, education and
social services in these times when there are many demands in
every area . . .

For the poor, the hungry and those struggling to find affordable
housing when prices for everything seem to rise each day . . .

For those who struggle with illness, addiction, disability or
despair and for those who mourn the loss of someone dear . . .

For the powerless and the oppressed, wherever they live,
and for those who work to defend them . . .

**Hear us now as we pray in silence for situations on our hearts this
day.**

Eternal God, thank you for listening to us in every situation.
Keep our eyes open for your Spirit at work among us.
Equip us to respond to someone else's prayer as your servants,
for we offer ourselves to you in the lives we live. Amen.

***Hymn** “When I Needed a Neighbour”

VU 600

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

As I extinguish the candle, see the light is now changed. The smoke twirls around and spreads out. But it is still here! It touches us. That changed light touches us, and goes with us. We now take the Light with us as we leave and carry it to others as we go about our daily lives. Go and live in the light, share the light.

***Benediction**

May the Spirit of God lead us to build God’s realm on this earth
so all will have the most refreshing water to drink,
so all will have a warm space to rest at the end of long days,
so all will know the joy of your Kin-dom. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** “When You Walk from Here”

VU 298

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.