

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

March 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

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** “God in the Darkness”

MV #17 v. 1

God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming,
giver of hope, and pledge of our redeeming,
Spirit of truth, our memory and meaning,
come and renew us.

God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming,
giver of hope, and pledge of our redeeming,
Spirit of truth, our memory and meaning,
come and renew us.

Call to Worship

God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

We come before you weary from travelling through barren lands.

Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.

May our time of worship prepare us to be a living spring of love.

We come to worship our God whose name is Love.

***Hymn** “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” VU #108 vv. 4-6

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are.

Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you

are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love.

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 95

VU # 814

***Hymn** "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

VU #345 vv. 1-2

All God's Children

***Hymn** "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

VU #345 v. 3

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace.

Sung Assurance of God's Unending Love "Don't Be Afraid" MV # 90

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

God gives freely, so let us give freely to God. Let us bring gifts that sustain the life of the kin-dom. May these resources be more than enough. Amen.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” VU #149 v.4

*** Offertory Prayer**

Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we give them. Be it time, tithe or talent, it all comes from you. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Exodus 17:1–7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the

elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

John 4:5–42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know

about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Revealing God,
we seek to offer you our prayers in spirit and in truth.
We thank you for the truth of your love

which welcomes us as we are, not as the world tells us we should be.

Thank you for the truth of your love
which embraces us even when you recognize our mistakes and failures.

Thank you for the truth of your purpose
which gives us meaning and direction for our lives.
And thank you for the truth of your vision
which gives us hope for our future even in challenging times.

Revealing God,
guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth for our times.
We are surrounded by claims of truth and much that misleads.
We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by so much information:

Grant us all the ability to discern fact from fabrication,
and to recognize self-interest disguised as sincerity.

Revealing God,
guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth in our history.
We know that most history has been written by the winners
so give us the willingness to hear the stories that have been silenced.

We pray for those who have stories that are difficult to tell.

Grant us both the courage to speak and to listen,
and the wisdom to recognize truth even when it makes us
uncomfortable.

Revealing God,
guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth in our characters and shared humanity.
We hear voices that are fearful, critical and cynical,
so help us listen for voices of respect, generosity and filled with
hope.

Show us the potential we have to work together,
to find common cause even among those with different
perspectives,
and accomplish more than we can imagine right now,
because, together, we have been created in your image.
Awaken in us and among us the potential to serve you
in serving one another
for this is the way you revealed to us in Jesus Christ, both Friend
and Saviour. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "O Jesus, I have Promised" VU #120

***Blessing**

As you depart this space, remember that the God who caused
water to flow from a rock is the same God who walks with you.
Go forth with the assurance that in the midst of a chaotic world

something good can happen and something good will happen.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction**

Go to The World

VU #420 v.2

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.