

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

May 21, 2023

10:30 a.m.

7th Sunday of Easter

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** "Bless the Lord" (Taizé) X4

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life.

Call to Worship *Based on Psalm 68*

Sing to God
and praise God's name.
When we see white billowing clouds,
we think of God's splendour and glory,
but God is not too great to care for the lonely and desolate
and stand up for those who are alone.
God rules from a holy place,
but makes a home for the lonely.
God sets people free
and sustains them.
God causes abundant showers to fall,
and revives us when we're tired.
God is among us and blesses us
and so we praise God's name.
With open hearts and minds; we worship God.

***Hymn** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

VU 334

Prayer of Approach

What do you do when you are left alone?
What do you do with that ball of crumpled emotion
when meaning and purpose disappear,
as the one you follow is taken,
and the love you have chased is torn away?
What do you do when you are left alone?

**Remember the dream!
Transformed the visions into actions!
Turn the talk into work!
Follow in the footsteps!
Hear the future calling you!
Grow into community!
Pursue the promptings of your soul!
Let go and let us adventure!
Be the church!**

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 68:1–10, 32–35

VU 787

***Hymn “I'm Gonna Shout, Shout”**

MV 183 vv. 1, 2

All God's Children

***Hymn “I'm Gonna Shout, Shout”**

MV 183 vv. 1, 2

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**There were times, gracious God, when we are steadfast
and firm in our faith, like trees planted by streams of water.**

((Pause))

**And there are times when we bend with the winds of popularity
and whim, giving into whatever attracts us, caring little for your
way.**

((Pause))

Forgive us.

((Pause))

Renew us with the refreshing winds of your spirit.

((Pause))

**Make us new. Strengthen us to grow into your likeness, to bear
good fruit, to be pleasing to you. We pray in Christ's name.**

Assurance of God's unending Love

Let us receive the assurance of these prayers, and may unity, caring, joy and truth be the fruit we bear into the world. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

This Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, for God is good. We offer to God our thanks for such goodness in our tithes and offering.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory** "You Nourish Us" VU 545

***Offertory Prayer**

**Each of us is a fragile miracle,
evidence of God's creative hands,
and amazing grace.**

**We are each unique,
unrepeatable gifts to the world.**

We are proof of God's love.

**And so we who are the gifts of creation
now give gifts to our Creator.**

Gifts brought in love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Acts 1:6–14

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus,

and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17:1–11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the generations in time and eternity,
we turn to you in these quiet moments
to offer you our thanks and our hopes for our lives.
This morning we give you thanks for all those people
who have shown us your face and taught us to follow you
through the loving example of their living faith.
We are grateful for their wisdom and courage which continue to
inspire us.

Thank you for our life together in your church and the saints
we've known here. May the light of Christ shine through our lives,
too, so that we offer light for the world you love as witnesses to
your purposes.

Christ of Compassion in action in you,
we receive our call to live with purpose.
From you, we learn how to love those around us.
With you, we find strength to face each new day.
So today we offer our prayers for those facing challenges these
days and seek your guidance to respond to their cries.

We pray for those brought to mind by news headlines this week for situations of violence and deprivation, danger and devastation.....

Keep a brief silence.

We pray for families going through difficult times, for all who are sick or in sorrow, for all who are lonely or despairing...

Keep a brief silence.

We pray for those agonizing over important decisions and responsibilities, for those in leadership roles and for those who care for the most vulnerable...

Keep a brief silence.

Spirit of healing and hope, this Sunday, we pray for the work of healing and reconciliation in Canada, between indigenous people and those who have settled in this land. Heal lives limited by misunderstanding, and bring hope for just resolutions to problems of long-standing. Embrace those indigenous families who have lost someone in years past and honour their tears in gentleness. Increase in us all the spring of generosity we need to create communities of dignity and mutual respect wherever we live on this land we call home.

Creator, Christ and Spirit, move with us into the week ahead, remind us each day to live according to your will and purpose in all our relationships for we want to bear witness to the love we met in Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn** "I Am a Child of God"

MV 157

***Blessing**

Go forth into the world,
refreshed by the truth you have received from the Christ
and renewed by the knowledge that you belong to God.
You have been chosen,
now go, and choose life!

***Choral Benediction** “Over My Head”

MV 88

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.