

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

**May 12, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**Mothering Sunday**

**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**

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship and wonder.

**It is good to be here.**

It is indeed good to be together.

**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 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Singing"

VU #400

## Call to Worship written by Ruth Burgess

Young mothers

Old mothers

Grandmothers

**All mothers are made**

**In the image of God**

Childless women

Menopausal women

Lesbian women

**All women are made**

**In the image of God**

Father's  
Gay men  
Childless men  
**All men are made  
In the image of God**

Divorced people  
Married people  
Single people  
**All people are made  
In the image of God**

Isn't the God shown to us by Jesus amazing!  
Here is God who is always beyond our imitation!  
A God whose love knows no boundaries.

**\*Hymn** "Memories Bright and Beautiful"

Written by George Mason.

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Holy One, today we pray for all who share  
in your creative power,  
your nurturing energy,  
your fierce protection,  
your unconditional love.**

**Whatever titles they carry,  
whatever genders they are,  
we offer this prayer for all who bear your Mothering Spirit:**

**protect the protectors;  
comfort the comforters.  
Nourish those who provide nourishment for others.  
Grant your holy energy to those birthing new life in this world.  
Provide sacred rest for the weary,  
divine wisdom for the bewildered,  
grace upon grace for the brokenhearted.**

**For all who gasp and pant with you in life-giving labour,  
grant your blessing,  
grant your peace.**

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.**

**Responsive Reading** In Psalm 139

we are reminded that each of us is "fearfully and wonderfully made." All of us, is an image of the one who created us. On this Mothering Sunday, it's good to remember this.

**\*Hymn** "Four Hugs a Day" All God's Children Sing #95

**All God's Children**

**The Pictures of You in Our Minds** *Written by John Harvey*

Loving God,  
forgive us,  
how we have got you wrong!  
Lazily we have settled for pictures of you in our minds  
which tell a terrible tale.  
We have painted you  
stern and unbending,  
the eternal judge  
with no mercy, no compassion.  
We have summoned you  
onto our side  
in battle--  
in boardroom or in war --  
giving you a uniform to wear  
of our own making.  
Too often  
we have been responsible  
for turning others away from you,  
and, in the end,  
from turning away from you ourselves.  
Forgive us

and lead us into the truth  
of your full nature  
as shown in Jesus.

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

We come in thanksgiving for God's great faithfulness and abiding presence. We come responding with generosity for kin-dom building and to be avenues of God's provisions.

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Presentation of Offering**

\* **Offertory**      "Grant Us, God, the Grace"      VU #540

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**May these gifts be our testimony of our faithfulness to you,  
abiding God, even as we offer to you all that we are and all that  
we have for your glory, honour and praise. Amen.**

## **Listening for the Word**

### **Sacred Scripture**

#### **Isaiah 49:14-16**

But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;  
my Lord has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her nursing child  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these might forget,  
yet I will not forget you.  
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.

### **Romans 8:35-39**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**\*Hymn**      “O A Song Must Rise”

MV #142

**Changing of the Light**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.  
**But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.  
Go cradle and share the **Light**. **Share** it to others as we go about  
your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

### **\*Blessing**

May the Love that brought us to birth by the Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Love that provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.

May the Love whose steadfast care is constant as a  
mother's care, send us out to live and accept all.

May the love of God surround you,  
the passion of Jesus inspire you,  
and the wisdom of the Spirit guide your  
thoughts and actions. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction**      “Go Now in Peace, Never Be Afraid”

### **Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.