

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

April 9, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Resurrection 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 & Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**We live at mystery's edge,
watching for a startling luminescence
or a word to guide us.**

**In fragile occurrence, the Holy One is present beyond belief
and we must pause...**

Daily, there are glimmers,
reflections of a seamless mercy
revealed in common intricacies.

**These circles of grace spill out around us
and announce that we are part of this mystery.**

Today we celebrate life over death.
Today we celebrate the flame that lives again.
We will light the fire...

***Hymn** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

VU# 157

Call to Worship

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Hallelujah!

On this day we celebrate resurrection.

The power of life has overcome the power of death.

Hallelujah!

The light of love has shattered the shadows of fear.

Hallelujah!

The way of peace has prevailed against the violence of the
empire.

Hallelujah!

We come to worship the God whose resurrection power
is a possibility for all who embrace the ways of love.

Hallelujah!

***Hymn** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

VU# 703

Prayer of Approach

God of the morning,
Jesus of the empty tomb,
Spirit who rolls stones,
the word “alive”
is not enough to encompass the day.

May we know life
in every molecule of our being,
in every word we manage to utter,
in every gasp of breath we take.

May your resurrection,
your breathing again,
anchor us in hope once more.
Dare our minds to dream again,
to believe beyond what kingdoms
of our world offer.

When there are no words to describe today,
may we have laughter
that colours the world anew
with faith that mocks death
and encourages life once again.

God of the morning,
Jesus of the empty tomb,
Spirit who rolls stones,
we praise you.

God of life
and the promise
you are alive
in each one of us,
Alleluia! Amen.

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.**

***Hymn "This Is The Day"**

All God's Children

***Hymn "This Is The Day"**

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world to overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Strengthen us to live abundantly in your kingdom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us.

Sung Assurance of God's unending Love

The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God's grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

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

*** Offertory Prayer**

To you O God, we offer these gifts acknowledging that we walk by faith, we live by faith, we give by faith. Accept these gifts from our hands, our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Jeremiah 31:1–6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,
the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!
Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.
Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.
For there shall be a day when sentinels will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:
'Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.'

Matthew 28:1–10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his

disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Sermon

Reflective Music

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

VU# 468

Invitation

**Friends, let us share in the sacred story
and celebrate the feast of the resurrection.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God is the heart of life.
And we are the heartbeat.
May our hearts be filled
with thanks and praise and songs of joy.
We rejoice in the miracle of life
and delight in our participation.

**We give thanks for the invitation to be at this table,
for here we are shown our lives.**

The daily bread of our work and care,
the cup of delight, pressed from the fruits of our creativity
and our brokenness, with all its pain and self-knowledge.

We celebrate the life that is ours
for we know we are valued in your sight.
We celebrate the life that is yours, a pattern of reality for us:
life that is love revealed,
love given and received,
love in action.

Therefore, with all your lovers throughout the ages
we praise you singing:

**Holy, holy, holy, resurrection God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Bread and cup tell a very special story,
about women, about men, about life.

Bread has its beginnings in the earth:
it is gathered, ground and kneaded by loving hands,
tired backs, by sweat of toil.
Bread from field and mill and store.

Bread to break, to give and eat, shared from hand to hand.
Bread that must be broken open, to be used, to feed.
Bread broken to fill emptiness.

Likewise, the cup is of the earth, bitter and sweet.
From vine to glass, given and shared, of people's labour.

Cup of joy and pain, grief and gladness.
Cup to be spilled, to quench thirst, and to enliven the heart.
With bread and cup, you are invited
to see, hear, smell, feel and taste the mystery of grace.

Anthem

Sharing of Bread and Cup

The bread that we break,
is our sharing in the
life and body of Christ.

The cup that we pour,
is our sharing in the
life and body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready.

Prayer after Communion

**You give us bread for new life,
the cup for celebration,
each other for community,
and yourself for joy.**

**With awe and joy we sing of a church
with purpose,
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
human dignity defended,
gifts shared for the good.**

**We have given all this and more
at this table of Grace. Amen.**

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “The Day of Resurrection”

VU# 164

*** Commissioning and Benediction**

Go forth with renewed hope,
trusting in the transforming love of God.

**God does not leave things as they are;
with God, all things are made new.**

All creation responds to God’s presence;
the world is alive with possibility.

We open ourselves to this truth.

Nothing is beyond the reach of God;
neither evil, nor hardship, nor death.

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed.

*** Choral Benediction** “I Am Walking a Path of Peace”

MV# 221

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.