

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

**December 24, 2021**

**5:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Central Queens Mission Statement**

**Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating 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**

**\*Introit** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" VU #60 v. 1 and chorus

**\*Call to Worship**

Mary and Joseph have  
arrived in Bethlehem.

**But there is no room for them in the inn!**

You are right, did you know that the innkeeper  
said they could stay in the stable?

**Is this where Baby Jesus will be born?**

It is! He was born in an animal barn!

**I heard there were angels gathered in the night sky.**

That's what the story says.

**Is it true that shepherds were sitting on the hillsides that night?**

I believe so, and they were the first to hear and see the angels.

## **What did they say to the shepherds?**

A special baby was going to be born and they should go to Bethlehem and see for themselves. Some say, if you listen very closely you can still hear the angels singing!

**Carol**      “Angels, We Have Heard on High”

VU #38

## **Advent Candle Lighting**

The candle of hope;  
**hope that spreads through  
the hearts of shepherds  
and all those who listen to  
the angels’ songs of peace.**

The candle of joy;  
**joy that bubbles up  
in the hearts of Mary and Joseph,  
and all those who gaze upon  
one another as children of God.**

The candle of peace;  
**peace that flows  
into the hearts of all those  
who long and live  
to end strife in the world.**

The candle of love;  
**love that spills  
from the heart of the Holy One  
and embraces all living things.**

Tonight we light the Christ candle,  
 for Christ is born.  
**Hope blossoms anew.**  
**Peace shines brighter.**  
**Joy laughs through our homes.**  
**Love embraces every one of us.**  
 Hope, peace, joy, love.  
 These are the gifts of God  
 for the people of God.  
 Jesus, the Light of the world, is born.

### **Prayer of Approach**

**God, each Christmas Eve we journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Each Christmas Eve, we sing with the angels and offer our praise with the shepherds. Each Christmas Eve, Christ is born anew. This is the sacred, exciting moment we have waited for. Our hearts are prepared. Be born anew in us this night. Come, fill us with peace and love. Come, fill us with hope and joy. Then may we spread these gifts wherever we go. We ask in the Holy Child's name. Amen.**

<b>Sacred text</b>	The birth of Jesus	Video
<b>*Hymn</b>	"Jesus, Our Brother"	VU # 56
<b>Story</b>	<i>They Followed A Bright Star</i>	
<b>Hymn</b>	"Away in a Manger"	VU #69
<b>Offertory Invitation</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	"In the Bleak Midwinter"	VU #55 v. 4

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

**Loving and gracious God, you have given the world the most precious gift – yourself in Jesus Christ. May our gifts and our lives be a reflection of that gift. May we, too, bring light to the world, by what we give here tonight, and always. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

## **Christmas Prayer**

Holy One, we know you were born 2000 years ago.

**We believe you can be born in our hearts today.**

Holy One, we believe you live in all creation.

**We also believe you dwell in us.**

Holy One, we have room in our hearts for you.

**Be born in us this Christmas night.**

**Come alive in our hearts,**

**with enough hope, peace, joy and love**

**for our relationships and our world.**

**We ask in the Child’s name. Amen.**

*Lights are dimmed, candles distributed.*

**\*Solo**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

## **\*Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

May the blessing of God's love cuddle and hold you tightly tonight and forever. Amen.

## Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.