

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 24, 2021 – 5:30 pm

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 vs 1 & 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

Sacred Text

The Birth of Jesus

Video

***Hymn** Jesus, Our Brother VU #56

Story *They Followed A Bright Star*

Hymn Away in a Manager VU #69

Offertory Invitation

Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter VU #55 vs 4

***Presentation of Offering**

***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

Solo Silent Night, Holy Night Rachelle Belair

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able