

Central Queens United Church

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December 18, 2016 – Advent 4

**Ministry Of Music:**

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP-**

**Welcome & Announcements:**

**Birthday's & Special Occasions:**

**Lighting Of The Advent Candle**

Leader: On this fourth Sunday in Advent we light the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy again (all three candles are relit). We remember our longing for God to be with us, to give us peace, and to rejoice with us.

**People: Today, we light a fourth candle and name it Love. (Final purple candle is lit)**

Leader: This candle reminds us of Mary, Jesus Mother. This candle reminds us of a mother's love for her child and her willingness to carry him, care for him, and give him a home.

**People: This candle is also a symbol of God's love that was born in baby Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a symbol of God's love that can be alive in each one of us if we are willing to make room for Him.**

Leader: It is also a reminder of the love we are asked to show to others in our city and throughout the world: those without homes, those whose homes are ravaged by poverty and war, those whose homes are broken by illness and tragedy.

**All: O God of love and grace help us to make a home for you in our lives, and help us make room for all those who need your love, especially the homeless of our city. Amen.**

***"I Am Walking a Path of Love"***

*I am walking a path of Love*

*I am walking a path of Love*

*I am walking a path of Love*

*lead me home,*

*lead me home.*

**Call To Worship:**

One: Seasons come and seasons go,

**All: but our God endures forever.**

One: Our faith exhibits ebb and flow,

**All: but our God endures forever.**

One: Our lives may freeze up or may grow,

**All: but our God endures forever. So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.**

**\*Introit: # 4 (MV) "All Who are Thirsty"**

**Prayer Of Approach:**

Gracious God, in this season of Advent your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in familiar stories and tiny signs of hope. As we worship, open our hearts that we might be a hopeful people, open our eyes lest we miss the glory of your appearing, open our lips that we might share the good news of Jesus birth. Keep us from growing weary of waiting and come to us O God in the stories and events of this holy time. Amen.

**Hymn: # 1 (vv 1 – 5) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

**Responsive Reading: The Song of Zechariah VU Page 900**

**Time With Youth:**

(at conclusion children recess for Sunday School)

**Go, Go, Go with God**

**Have peace with your heart**

**Praise and pray every day**

**Have peace with your heart**

**Presentation of Our Gifts To God: # 9 "People Look East"**

(Choir Sings as Gifts Are Received)

**Offertory Prayer:**

Through these gifts, O God, may all be helped to hear the voice of justice, to hear the call of compassion, to embrace the way of sharing & to know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen

**Hymn: # 62 "Once In Royal David's City"**

**Prayer of Confession & Renewal:**

God, the sounds and sights of the season surround us: carols and bright lights, cash registers and colourful counters. We screen from our sight people starving and armies fighting. And we shut from our hearing babies crying and guns firing. And yet, the manger story is

about a family wandering, a baby crying, a Herod killing. Are we looking for You in the wrong places again? Open our eyes and ears to Your presence and help us to live the love of Christmas at all times. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

One: God comes in Jesus, Son of Mary, to show us Love incarnate. In Christ, God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**The New Creed:** (Sung)

**Special Music:** “Awake!, Awake!”

**LISTENING TO THE WORD-**

**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-9

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1:18-24

**Sermon:** Nurturing The Child

**Choral Anthem:** “In a Manger He is Lying”

**RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS-**

**Communion Hymn:** # 248 (vv 1 – 3) “When Long Before Time”

**Invitation to Communion:**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration:** *see end of bulletin*

**Distribution of the Communion Elements**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Gracious God may your gifts of love transform and enliven us so that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your hope, your peace, your joy and your love. Grant that as we wait for the birth of the babe of Bethlehem we may grow in Christian love and understanding and that ours may be lives of faithful action. Amen.

**Hymn:** # 248 (vv 4 – 6) “When Long Before Time”

**Commissioning & Benediction:**

**Choral Benediction:** “Go Now In Peace”

Go Now in Peace...Never be afraid,

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen.



Today's Bulletins Are Placed  
In Loving Memory Of  
Elbert Orr  
Presented by  
The Family

**-THE LIFE AND WORK OF OUR CHURCH-**

- The congregation of Central Queens United Church would like to thank Rev. Jack Spencer for leading our worship service this morning.
- If you are visiting with us today we welcome you and encourage you to sign our guest book located in the foyer of the building.
- Karla's (Church Secretary) Work Schedule: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30a.m.. Please note change of schedule.
- Please Note that there is a large wooden box in the foyer Where you may place your items for the **FOOD BANK**. The box will be there year round. We ask that you remember the poor in your prayers and donate to the food bank as you are able.
- **You can Sponsor Sunday Bulletin Covers for 2017:** United Church Sunday bulletin covers are a great addition to our worship services, providing excellent photos, liturgy, and reflections by United Church people. Congregation members are invited to sponsor a week of bulletins to honour a special day/event or to offer a memorial for a deceased loved one and to help cover the costs of bulletins for our church. The sign-up sheet is on the table outside the sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00 per Sunday.
- **Central Queens United Church Cookbook** - Anyone who would like to buy one or more of our new cookbooks, please call Karla at 964-2221 or 393-9071. These cookbooks would make a great wedding gift, bridal shower gift, birthday gift or even a gift to save for your children when they venture out into the world on their own.

- Anyone who would like to donate yarn to the Prayer Shawl Group of Central Queens United Church it would be greatly appreciated. The Prayer Shawl Group makes shawls to give to folks in retirement homes, hospital and new mothers etc..

- We invite you to take some quiet time to prepare for worship by reading these lessons. Next week Lectionary Readings are:

December 24 – *Christmas Eve* - Isaiah 9:2-7 - Psalm 96 (Voices United 816) Titus 2:11-14 - Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 25 – *Christmas Day* - Isaiah 62:6-12 - Psalm 97 (Voices United 817) - Titus 3:4-7 - Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20

- The church is running out of storage space and is wondering if anyone has available space at home where we could store items. If you can help us out please call church office at 902-964-2221.

- Bible Reading Guides for 2017 – These are provided free by The Canadian Bible Society. You are encouraged to read your Bible daily and 2017 is a good year to begin.

- In event of Inclement Weather an announcement will be made by radio on Ocean 100 by 9 a.m. and it will also be posted on our web-site.

- Youth Group (grades 7 to 12) meets the last Friday of each month from 7 to 9 at the church or an off-site location.

- December 18<sup>th</sup> -- After Church – Special Official Board Meeting following the church service. The agenda item will be discussing The Guardian's offer to print a basic church notice in the newspaper, at the cost of \$520 per year.

- December 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 7:30 p.m. - Join us for an evening of Musical Christmas Spirit with our 3rd Annual "Old Fashioned Christmas Gospel Concert" featuring music by Gary Chipman, New Brunswick singers, Jessica McLaughlin & Joey Hebert, Rodney & Brenda Savidant, Ed & Linda Doiron, Blair Coughlin, Allen "Postie" Connolly and a performance by the Breadalbane Guitar students. Concert will be held at Central Queens United Church on Sunday, December 18th at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$12 at the door. Info: 314-1865.

- December 24<sup>th</sup> -- Saturday – 6 p.m. -- Christmas Eve Service to be held at Central Queens United Church.

- December 25<sup>th</sup> -- Sunday – 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Service to be held at Central Queens United Church.

- ~January 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – 7:45 p.m. -- Official Board Meeting to be held at Central Queens United Church.

- ~Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> -- Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – Presbytery Meeting at Central Queens United Church.

- January 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – After Church -- Annual Meeting will be held at Central Queens United Church. The plan is to do what we usually do - have a potluck meal after the service, and then have the meeting.

#### -COMMUNITY EVENTS-

- Tuesday's & Thursday's -- Eternal Fitness is expanding to Hunter River! Classes will be held at Hunter River Community Centre. We are currently offering Group Fitness Classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:45pm-1:30pm. Tuesday class is Cardio Core and Thursday is Tabata. Both classes will be catered to all fitness levels (beginner to advance). First class is free, \$10 drop-in, \$64 for one month, taxes included. For the remainder of the month of November we have a 50% off offer! Bring a friend and you will both receive 50% off your month membership. If you are looking for more information about our programs in Hunter River or South Rustico you can contact Denee Gallant via phone or e-mail: [902-218-1529](tel:902-218-1529), [dgallant31@gmail.com](mailto:dgallant31@gmail.com)

- December 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday -- 2:00 p.m. - The North Shore Players (not for profit community theatre group) are presenting 'A Christmas Carol', involving members of the North Shore communities of Hunter River, Wheatley River, and North Rustico! The North Shore Players present : "A CHRISTMAS CAROL".

- December 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 7 p.m. -- Christmas Ceilidh is planned for Kelly's Cross Community Centre. For list of entertainers and other information see Friday, December 15th issue of the Guardian in the "Don't Miss This " section

- December 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7 p.m. -- Please join Kelley Mooney and her friends for a Christmas Concert at St. John's Anglican Church in Milton, PEI. Joining Kelley for a lovely evening of Christmas songs and good cheer are Jon Matthews, Peter Burke, Brian Knox, Hartz Godkin and special guest - Kendall Docherty!

Christmas can be a tough time of year for some, so we invite you to bring along some non-perishable food items for the local food bank for those who may be struggling at this time of year. Admission: \$12 & a non-perishable food donation (children under 12 free). For more information contact: Kelley Mooney - [902-393-9112](tel:902-393-9112) [kelleymooney@hotmail.com](mailto:kelleymooney@hotmail.com) / [www.kelleymooney.com](http://www.kelleymooney.com)

- **December 20<sup>th</sup>** -- Tuesday – 7 p.m. -- **Christmas Pageant** in the Barn. Come experience the feel of a stable setting. Hear the gift of music and story in a simple service at the Francis Family Farm at #631 Branch Road in Lady Fane.

- **December 27<sup>th</sup>** – Tuesday – 7:30 p.m. – Because of the demand for tickets to the Ladies of the Centuries Christmas Show on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, which was sold out, we are doing an extra Christmas show on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 at Winsloe United Church. Admission is \$10 at the door, but for anyone who had tickets for the December 12<sup>th</sup> show and were unable to use them, we will honour them at this show.

- **February 21<sup>st</sup>** -- Tuesday – 6 p.m. -- **Camp Abby's Annual Meeting** will be held at Trinity United Church in Summerside.

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you think you might attend, please notify a board member or you can send an email to the board chair, Garth Cousins at [garthcousins@hotmail.com](mailto:garthcousins@hotmail.com) or call him at [902-436-0458](tel:902-436-0458).

## The Great Thanksgiving Prayer for Communion

**All:** In Mary, woman of your promise, you showed us courage and faith. In the fullness of time, you sent us your greatest gift, Jesus, the Christ, our prince of peace & herald of hope. We join in the Advent prayer of all your people, "O come, Emmanuel." & as we wait & watch for your coming, we proclaim your goodness saying: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power & might; heaven & earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

**One:** Mighty & tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth, we recognize the fullness of your grace: light, life, & love revealed in words that confront & comfort us, in teachings that challenge & change us, in compassion that heals & frees us.

**All:** And now we gather at this table to remember & to be filled with such longing for your realm, that we may rise together to turn our worship into witness & to follow in your way.

**One:** We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, & after blessing it, he broke it & gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." Then, he took a cup, & after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup poured out for you, is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me." At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for those who are in sorrow or in pain ...

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

We pray for those who are ill or alone ...

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

We pray for those who live with fear, oppression, or hunger

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

We pray for all whom the world counts as last & least.

**All: Lord hear our prayers ~ in your wisdom answer**

We pray for your church & its varied ministries

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

We pray for nations as they strive for peace & justice

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

We pray for our families & friends that they may be kept in the way of faith & find life in you

**All: Lord hear our prayers & in your wisdom answer**

Leader: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life & death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise & thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."**

Leader: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us & upon these gifts that all who share in this loaf & cup may be the body of Christ in the world. In this hope, & as your people, we praise you:

**All: Through Christ, with Christ, & in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now & forever Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**