

Central Queens United Church
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December 24th, 2017 – Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m.

– GATHERING FOR WORSHIP –

Welcome:

Gathering Music:

Call To Worship:

Leader: The night is here. The time of waiting is almost over.

People: **Mary and Joseph have made their way through the dusty countryside to enter the city of Bethlehem.**

Leader: They have, in the midst of crowds of people, found shelter in a stable.

People: **The time is now and we have come to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let us begin.**

Prayer Of Approach:

Glorious God, the stars sparkle in the snow and the cold crisp air touches our lungs, reminding us of this special night. Something amazing is about to happen. We wait and we listen for the still small voice of God made real to us in a little baby. Bless us this night we pray in the name of the Christ Child. Amen.

Hymn: # 69 “Away in a Manger”

Time With Youth:

Scripture Lesson: – Luke 2: 1 - 20

Presentation: “The Friendly Beasts”

Anthem: “When Lights are Lit on Christmas Eve”

Presentation Of Our Gifts:

Offering Prayer:

This is the season of giving and receiving gifts. May the gifts we offer tonight bring true blessing to those who receive them and deep blessing to we who give them, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Four candles are lit

Reader 1:

It's Christmas Eve
The time of waiting is over.
The candles of hope, peace, joy & love are lit.
Only one remains and it is the Christ candle.
We light it now in awe & wonder.

(light the Christ candle .)

Reader 2: May Jesus born so long ago in a stable,

Be born in our hearts this night.
May his birth bring to our world this gift of his life
And justice, peace and hope for all.

Reader 1: Let us pray. God of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus may the light of these candles remind us of his birth and his gifts of hope, peace, joy & love tonight and all year long and may we find ways to live and share these gifts each day. Amen

Hymn: # 67 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

A Christmas Prayer:

Hymn: # 59 “Joy to the World”

Benediction:

Leader: Go out with joy and singing, with hope and gladness proclaiming the Good News.

People: **Like Mary and Joseph we will celebrate the birth of the Holy Child.**

Leader: And may God go with you this night and always!

Merry Christmas