

Central Queens United Church
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January 1, 2017 – New Year’s Day

(Stand as able *)

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Birthday’s & Special Occasions: (Tune to Happy Birthday)

We celebrate you, in all that you do

We love you, God bless you.

Let us celebrate you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We have gathered here on this first day, not only the beginning of the week, but the beginning of the year.

People: Beginnings are opportunities to start anew.

Leader: On this fresh, first day, let us take the opportunity to open ourselves anew to God’s blessings.

People: As we listen, pray, and sing praises to God, may God’s love sustain us and bless us today, and throughout this new year.

***Introit: # 4 “All Who Are Thirsty”**

Prayer of Approach:

The circle of the year has turned again. There are endings and beginnings, changes and transitions. In all this, there is one sure thing – God is present. Come to us, Holy God, as we gather here; encircle us with your love. Bless us with your sustaining presence; surround us with your grace. Grant us the courage to meet the light. Amen.

***Hymn: # 96 "Will You Come and See the Light"**

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 8 VU 732

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 within your heart

Presentation of Our Gifts To God: (Choir sings #595 "We Are Pilgrims")

***Offertory Prayer:**

We present our first-gifts to you, generous, gracious God. Bless these gifts, we pray, so that they may enable us to hold the Christ-light for all our sisters and brothers, wherever and whenever we may meet them. Amen.

***Hymn: # 703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"**

Prayer of Confession & Renewal:

O God, we rush and fuss to get ready for Christmas. We are happy to talk about Jesus, about the “reason for the season.” But then we hurry and scurry to pack it all away. But Christmas isn’t gone. Christ lives in us and with us every day. Forgive us for boxing up Jesus, and only bringing him out when we feel it is convenient and safe. We have heard the story of the nativity once more. We have sung with the angels and wondered with the shepherds. Forgive us for thinking that is the end of the story. In this fresh New Year, help us to hear the story of your love for us anew. Inspire us to open our eyes and hearts to find Jesus, not just in the manger, but in new places, in new faces. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: God’s love for us not like a New Year’s resolution – here today and gone tomorrow.

People: God loves us this day, this year, forever.

Leader: To all who turn to God in hope, this is God’s word of grace:

People: we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

All: This gift we have from God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The New Creed: (Sung)

-LISTENING TO THE WORD-

First Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

-RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS-

Anthem: # 713 "I See a New Heaven"

Pastoral Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn: # 217 "All Creatures of Our God and King"**

Commissioning & Benediction

Leader: As you enter this new year, may the presence of God go with you.

People: We will know joy and sorrow, success and failure.

Leader: Through it all, God will be the companion on all of our journeys.

People: We are thankful for God's steadfast love.

All: We thank you for this New Year which awaits us, Holy God; take us by the hand and lead us on. Amen.

Choral Benediction: "God Grant Us Grace"

God grant us grace,

And peace to share

Faith, joy, and mercy good.

Sent from this place,

Renewed to share

With all God's neighbourhood.

-LIFE AND WORK OF OUR CHURCH -

- The congregation of Central Queens United Church would like to thank Roland Easter for leading our 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.
- 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..
- 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.
- We invite you to take some quiet time to prepare for worship by reading these lessons. Next week Lectionary Readings are: January 8 – Baptism of the Lord -- Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29 (Voices United 756); Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
- 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.
- January 4th – Wednesday – 8:30 p.m. – Choir Practice to be held at Central Queens United Church.
- January 8th -- Sunday – 10 a.m. – Sunday – Choir Practice to be held at Central Queens United Church.
- January 11th -- Sunday – Annual Reports are Due by January 11th. If you could have them into Karla the secretary by than it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You Karla.
- ~January 19th – Thursday – 7:45 p.m. -- Official Board Meeting to be held at Central Queens United Church.
- ~Jan. 26th -- Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – Presbytery Meeting at Central Queens United Church.
- January 29th – 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**

- **February 21st -- 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 or call him at [902-436-0458](tel:902-436-0458).**