

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 24, 2024 – 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve

Communion

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.

Prelude *Christmas Music*

Greeting

***Introit** All God's Children Sing #44 vs 1
Shepherd, Shake off Your Drowsy Sleep
**Shepherd, shake off your drowsy sleep,
Rise and leave your silly sheep
Angels from heav'n around there singing,
Tidings of great joy are bringing.
Shepherds! The chorus come and swell!
Sing Noel, O sing Noel!**

***Call to Worship**
" The people walking in darkness have seen a great light!"
"A great light!" -- " a great light!" --- " a great light!"
" for to us, a child is born, to us, a son is given!"
" His name is Jesus!"

***Hymn** O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60

Lighting the Advent Candles

Hymn A Candle Is Burning VU #6

Prayer

Dear God, we pause to breathe deeply, still our hearts, and open our minds. Come and be with us this evening. Just as the star guided the magi, lead us to your presence—in our moments of worry and fear, and in our times of joy and celebration. In all things, we seek you and long to know you are near. Amen.

Interactive Nativity Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Scene 1: The Journey to Bethlehem

Hymn Away in a Manger VU #69

Congregation – make animal sounds – moo, baa, neigh

Scene 2: The Angels and the Shepherds

Congregation – make soft sheep sounds – baa, baa

Hymn While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks VU #75

Congregation – gasp loudly

**Congregation – raise hands and say together
“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth!”**

Scene 3: The Shepherds Visit the Manger

Scene 4: Sharing the Good News

Congregation - join in “Glory to God in the Highest”

Hymn Joy is Now in Every Place VU #45

Story Time

Offering of Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Holy Communion

Opening Responses

Starlight and song have once again summoned us home to the stable.

And so, with the beasts of the field, and the humble and the high, we have come to gaze on the face of God.

Story and supper have once again drawn us home to God's table.

And here, through words worn smooth with telling, and gifts given life through sharing, may we once again see and know you, Emmanuel – God with us and for us.

Confession

Christmas Child – becoming flesh, you showed what it was

to serve and share, to live and love, as God intended.

As we stand at the stable door, we confess that all too often our living and loving have displaced or distorted your image, rather than making it present and plain.

Silence

Kyrie

Christmas Child, as we kneel again at your manger, restore, renew and reshape us so that our serving and sharing, living and loving may, now and always, embody you in the world. Amen.

Invitation

Communion Narrative

Thanksgiving

Sanctus and Benedictus (*Sung*)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus and Benedictus (continued)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord,

The King of Israel,

The Holy One of God,

Hosanna in the highest.

Consecration

The Peace

May the peace of the Christmas Child – the soft peace of a starlit night, the noisy peace of a crowded stable, the challenging peace of life and love fully lived and freely shared – enfold, enrich and energise you.

And also you.

The Sharing of the Gifts

Closing Prayer

The starlight and song, story and supper, which called us home now compel us to go out.

May we who have knelt at the manger always have room to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child. May we who have gazed on the face of God learn to live fully, and to share freely all that we have and are. So may Emmanuel – God with us and for us – be once again incarnated in the world. Amen.

Hymn

Silen Night, Holy Night

VU #67

Christmas Eve Blessing

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

VU #43

