

Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
December 24, 2025 – 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve – Lesson & Carols

Communion

Gathering

Prelude

Music

Lighting the Advent Candles

Reader 1 As we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love tonight,

Reader 2 we reflect on these good gifts from God, of God, for us.

(First Four Candles are Lit)

Reader 1 And now, as we light the Christ candle in the center of our Advent wreath,

Reader 2 we're making space for the grace of Jesus!

(The Christ Candle is Lit)

Reader 1 We remember the Advent journey we have taken,

Reader 2 preparing, anticipating, and now celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

Reader 1 Tonight, our long Advent journey has been fulfilled.

Jesus has been born, sent by God to show us grace.

Call to Worship

Bible Presentation (Placed during the singing of the Opening Carol)

Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

VU #60

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you come to us small, vulnerable and fragile, yet full of glory. As we hear the ancient story and as we bring forward the figures of the nativity, open our hearts to wonder, open our minds to wisdom, and our lives to your peace. Amen.

The Service of Lessons & Carols

Lesson 1 The Prophets Foretell Peace

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU #1 vs 1, 3, 5 & 7

Lesson 2 The Animals Wait in the Stable

Carol Away in a Manger VU #69

Lesson 3 Mary & Joseph Being Their Journey

Luke 2:1-5

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem VU #64

Prayer

Journeying God, be with all who travel tonight. Make room in us for courage, trust, and love. Amen.

Lesson 4 Jesus is Born

Luke 2:6-7

Choir Still, Still, Still VU #47

Lesson 5 Shepherds in the Fields

Luke 2:8-14

Carol While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks VU #75

Lesson 6 The Shepherds Travel to the Child

Luke 2:15-16

Carol Angels We Have Heard on High

VU #38

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy one, for the gifts of wonder, hope, and joy we give thanks. We offer ourselves, that your light may shine through us. Amen.

Lesson 7 The Child is Laid in the Manger

Carol Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

VU #58

Offering

Lesson 8 The Magi Follow the Star

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Carol We Three Kings

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. *[Refrain]*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *[Refrain]*

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *[Refrain]*

Offertory Carol What Child Is This

VU #74 vs 1

Offertory Prayer

Receive these gifts, God of love, and use them to share hope with your world. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Gathering at the Table

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up in hope.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy one, in this night of wonder, when the stars leaned close and the world held its breath, you came among us in the smallness of a child.

You came as light in our darkness, as comfort in our fear, as peace deeper than we could imagine.

Long before shepherds heard the angels' song, long before magi followed a wandering star, you were with your people—guiding, calling, gathering us home.

Great Thanksgiving (Continued)

And so, with those who knelt in straw-filled stables, with those who travelled far seeking meaning, and with all your people in every time and place, we join the ancient, unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God,
God of power and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Story of the Meal

Holy One, on another night—not unlike this one—you gathered with your friends at table. You took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with them, saying:

"This is my body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me."

Then you took the cup and said:

"This cup is the promise of new life. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

And so, remembering the child born among us, and remembering the one who welcomed the lost, healed the hurting, and opened the table to all, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

In this meal, love is remembered.
In this meal, love is renewed.
In this meal, love will lead us forward.

Prayer for the Spirit

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Holy One, you have met us in this meal: in the taste of bread, the sweetness of the cup, the presence of community, and the quiet mystery of this night.

Send us out with hearts full of wonder, hands ready to serve, and lives shaped by love. Amen.

Christmas Eve Blessing

Carol	Silent Night, Holy Night	VU #67
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Closing Hymn	Joy to the World	VU #59
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