



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 24, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Interim Minister - Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis

Organist - Fred Numan

Lector - Johanna de Bruin

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this evening!

O come let us adore Him



Word of the Day

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world (John 1:9).

PRELUDE *The Snow lay on the Ground* [Venite Adoremus]

English melody; arr. C. Winfred Douglas

Unto us a Child is Born [Puer Nobis Nascitur]

15th c. carol, Piae Cantiones

He is born! Now the Child has Come [Il est né]

18th c. French carol; arr. A. Donaldson

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

* HYMN – Once in royal David’s city

(Soloist, vs. 1; Congregation vs. 2, 3 & 4) 166

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Hope, peace, joy, and love.

Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God,
and all of them manifest in this one, we light tonight: the Christ candle.

[Light Christ Candle]

In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice,
the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our
diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world.

In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and
following in his footsteps.

Let us pray:

**We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives,
and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth –
born of Mary, growing through childhood,
he increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.
In all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;
his voice undimmed by the centuries,
his call and his promise as clear to us, as it was to his disciples so long ago.**

**Come to us, Lord Jesus,
Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
And lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

INTROIT – *Dona Nobis Pacem*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN – Angels from the Realms of Glory 146

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING Psalm 98 Refrain I

* HYMN – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly 143

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 638) **Isaiah 9:2-7**

* HYMN – O Little Town of Bethlehem 165

GOSPEL READING (p. 58) **Luke 2:1-14**

ANTHEM – *Still, Still, Still* German carol, arr. Philip Ledger

1. *Still, still, still, let all the world be still,
For Mary lays her son to rest, sings to him softly at her breast,
Still, still, still, let all the world be still.*
2. *Sleep, sleep, sleep, my dearest baby sleep,
The angels all rejoice and sing, heav'n for your delight shall ring,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby sleep.*
3. *Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy,
The God of love has left his throne,
Made this humble world his own,
Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!*

GOSPEL READING (p. 91) **John 1:1-14**

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Light and Salvation

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

THE OFFERING

SOLO - *He shall Feed His Flock like a Shepherd*

G. F. Handel from *Messiah*
Abigail Veenstra, soprano

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

148, v.1

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness Bring, and adore Him; the Lord is His name!*



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ADVENT CREDO

“It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss –
This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction –
This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever –
This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world –
This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers –
This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history –
This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Christmas in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ – the life of the world.”

– Daniel Berrigan, *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh* (Orbis Books, 2004).

THE INVITATION

* HYMN *I wonder as I wander*

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INTERSESSIONS

Circle us, Lord
Circle us with the light of your presence,
bright within this dark world
Enable us to overcome fear and temptation
Enable us to be victors over sin and despair
Enable us to become that which you would desire
(*Silent prayer*)
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation
Circle us with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord
Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms
Protect them in each moment of their daily lives
Protect them in the decisions that they face
Protect their homes and relationships
(*Silent prayer*)
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation
Circle our families with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord
Circle our little world with Advent hope, love, joy and peace
Create a desire to listen to the Advent message
Create a willingness to understand and respond
Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child
(*Silent prayer*)
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation
Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord
Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation
Where there is sickness and disease bring healing
Where there is hunger and despair bring hope
Where there is aching over unbelievable loss . . . bring solace
(*Silent prayer*)
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation
Circle this world with the light of your presence

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE - May the peace of Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

RECEIVING BREAD & WINE

*(Please come forward down the centre aisle when the usher arrives
at your pew and back along the sides.)*

GOD SENDS US

* CLOSING RESPONSES

Light of God

Lead us

Power of God

Hold us

Joy of God

Heal us

Laughter of God

Bless us

Love of God

Caress us

* THE BENEDICTION

(Please light your candle from the candle at pew end and pass on; extinguish at the end.)

POSTLUDE - *HYMN *Silent night! Holy night!*

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Welcome to Central this Christmas Eve!

Central Presbyterian Church is here to offer sacred space for worship, a safe space for community groups to gather, and a generous space to **Hamilton Out of the Cold** serving meals to those who need them.

Your presence with us today and your support of our work means so much.

May God bless you richly!

CPC Statement of Welcome: www.cpchamilton.ca/welcome-statement/

If you would like to get to know Central better, please introduce yourself to an usher and/or spend some time going through our website (www.cpchamilton.ca). You can choose to support this good work by placing a gift on the offering plate as you leave the service by the Caroline Street doors, On Sunday, January 8th, we are planning Central's annual, In Memoriam Service.

Contact your elder, Rev. Lois Whitwell or Helena in the office, if you did not receive our email correspondence, and wish to include a loved one in this time of remembering.

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 x33 or lois@cpchamilton.ca). Central's Prayer Team is available to receive needs in confidence. Contact Pam Carpenter at 905-526-0631 or carpenterfamily@sympatico.ca.

Congregational Givings

OFFERING in support of the worship and mission of Central

You can choose to support this good work by placing a gift on the offering plate as you leave, through pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donating online, via Interac E-Transfer or cheque. Please send to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca, include your envelope # or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

To have your offering included for 2022 income tax purposes, it must be received at the Church, or postmarked ***no later than Saturday, December 31st***. Please ensure your information is up-to-date with your elder or the church office, if you have moved, are moving, or have changed any of your contact information. This is very important in keeping our church records up to date in preparation of the 2022 income tax receipts.

If you would like to be added to our email list, please let Helena know (helena@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098).

Central Presbyterian Church – Land Acknowledgement *

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples.

This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around the Great Lakes.

We further acknowledge this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We are all treaty people.

* Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement
<https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

Interim Minister – The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis

Interim Moderator – The Rev. David Moody

Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson

Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell

Interim Director of Music – Jacob Fred Numan

Coordinator of Adult Discipleship – Sara Traficante

General Accountant – Zafar Iqbal

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Nursery Coordinator – Theresa Monkelbaan

Custodian – Rob Monkelbaan

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

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www.cpchamilton.ca

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