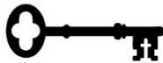




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TO WORSHIP GOD,  
*to grow as disciples of Jesus,*  
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,  
*to take God's love to the world.*



905-522-9098 | [cpchamilton.ca](http://cpchamilton.ca)  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

September 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Lector – Seke Fowode

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

\* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Andante Religioso*

*Seek Thou The Lord And His Strength*

F. Chopin

J. A. Diederichsen

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *One More Step Along the World I Go*

641

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

In the beginning, God made the world  
Light and dark, shape and void, height and depth  
To tell of love

Congregation:

**And God says it is good.**

In land and sea, in plant and seed,  
in growth and decay,  
God's love is shown

**And God says it is good.**

In creatures great and creatures small,  
in movement and stillness, in birth and death,  
God's love is shown

**And God says it is good.**

In woman and man,  
in the self and the other,  
in joy and sorrow, in laughter and tears,  
God's love is shown,

**And God says it is good.**

In the gift of new life, in signs of hope,  
In the children we are given

**God's love is shown.**

## PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

\* HYMN - The God of Abraham Praise

331

1. The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above,  
ancient of everlasting days,  
and God of love.  
Almighty, great I Am!  
by earth and heaven confessed,  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
forever blest.

2. The God of Abraham praise,  
at whose supreme command  
from earth I rise and seek the joys  
at God's right hand.  
I all on earth forsake,  
its wisdom, fame, and power,  
the Lord my only portion make,  
my shield and tower.

3. Though nature's strength decay,  
and earth and hell withstand,  
to Canaan's bounds I urge my way  
at God's command;  
the watery deep I pass  
with Jesus in my view,  
and through the howling wilderness  
my way pursue.

4. The goodly land I see,  
with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty  
and endless rest;  
there milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow,  
with mercy crowned.

5. There dwells the Lord our King,  
the Lord our Righteousness;  
triumphant o'er the world and sin,  
the Prince of Peace  
on Zion's sacred height  
God's kingdom still maintains,  
and glorious with the saints in light  
forever reigns.

6. The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high;  
"hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"  
they ever cry.  
Hail Abraham's God, and mine!  
I join the heavenly lays;  
all might and majesty are thine,  
and endless praise.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Leader:** In these words of affirmation, we are invited to reflect on our own faith and to renew our commitment.

**Congregation:** **We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust. And in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful, so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

*(The Iona Community Worship Book, p. 84, revised edition, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, 1991)*

\* HYMN - When Israel was in Egypt's Land

708

1. When Israel was in Egypt's land,  
let my people go!  
oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
let my people go!

Refrain:  
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;  
tell old Pharaoh let my people go!

2. The Lord told Moses what to do:  
let my people go!  
to lead the Hebrew people through,  
let my people go!

(Refrain)

3. As Israel stood by the waterside,  
let my people go!  
at God's command it did divide,  
let my people go!

(Refrain)

4. When they had reached the other shore  
let my people go!  
they let the song of triumph soar,  
let my people go!

(Refrain)

5. Lord, help us all from bondage flee,  
let my people go!  
and let us all in Christ be free,  
let my people go!

(Refrain)

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Following the Time with the Children, a program for children SK – Grade 8 will be available in the upstairs Faith Finders room. Parents can meet the children there following worship. Staffed Nursery is available for our young ones up to age 4 throughout the entire service.*

### GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 164)

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 61)

Luke 4:16-21

SERMON: *Stories of the Journey*

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* HYMN – Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

651

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Come Down, O Love Divine*

W. H. Harris

*Come down, O Love divine, Seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O comforter draw near, Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, Till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light Shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*Let holy charity Mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
True lowliness of heart, Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*

*And so the yearning strong, With which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace, Till he become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.*

\* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below:  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen**

**GOD SENDS US**

\* HYMN – Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

757

\* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Sortie in D*

Léon Boellmann

## Come sing, O church, in joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH 12 12 4 12

D A/C# D Bm F#m/A G D/F# A7/E D A

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
 2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,  
 3. Let cour - age be our friend, let wis - dom be our guide,  
 4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

D Bm 7 E /D A/C# D A/E E 7 A

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!  
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

D G Em6 Bm D/F# A/E D G/B D G Em6 D/F# Em/G D/A A 7 D

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

See also: Darwall's 148th 267 606

Words: Brian Dill (1949-) Music: John Darwall (1731-1789); harmony, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Words: copyright © Brian Dill, 1989 Music: public domain

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!

For any pastoral concerns, please contact Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 ext. 2 or [lois@cpchamilton.ca](mailto: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](mailto:carpenterfamily@sympatico.ca).

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](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)). If you would like to be added to our email list, please let Helena know ([helena@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:helena@cpchamilton.ca) or 905-522-9098 ext. 0).

**Word of the Day:**

*When your children ask you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the LORD our God has commanded you?' <sup>21</sup> then you shall say to your children, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand (Deuteronomy 6: 20-21).*



**Invitation to Membership**

There will be an opportunity for adherents and friends of this congregation to become members. Membership is not about being religious or increasing your attendance. Membership is about committing yourself at this point in your life to journeying toward God in the company of a particular fellowship of God's people. If this congregation is helping and supporting your spiritual journey, you are encouraged to become a member.

Please speak to Nick Athanasiadis (Interim Minister) or to Sara Traficante (Coordinator of Discipleship), if you are considering such a step at this point in your life, or if you would like to know more. We plan to welcome new members on Reformation Sunday October 29.



**Statement of Welcome and Inclusion**  
**Central Presbyterian Church**  
**God's Love Includes Everyone**



We strive to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving, and supportive community unified in Jesus Christ. As an inclusive congregation, we joyfully affirm and honour the diversity of God's creation. Our community is richer when we include people of all ages, gender identities, racial and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, economic circumstances and family configurations. We proclaim this statement of inclusion to all who have experienced the pain of exclusion or discrimination by the church and society. All are invited to join a body of believers, to participate fully in the life, leadership, witness and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church. We acknowledge we are imperfect and in different stages of our faith journey. **No matter who you are, how you identify, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey: know you are welcome here, and you are loved by God.**

CPC Statement of Welcome: [www.cpchamilton.ca/welcome-statement/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/welcome-statement/)

**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, through pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donating online, via Interac E-Transfer or cheque. Please send to [bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca), include your envelope # or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit [cpchamilton.ca/giving](http://cpchamilton.ca/giving)

	<b><u>Revenues as of August 31, 2023</u></b>		
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Over (Short)</b>
<b>Congregational Givings</b>	\$ 154,202	\$ 134,896	\$ (19,306)
<b>Other Revenue</b>	48,393	44,623	(3,770)
<b>Trustees as budgeted</b>	131,253	131,253	-
	\$ 333,848	\$ 310,772	\$ (23,076)

Note: There is a shortfall between budgeted and actual revenues and Trustees providing support. 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.

Next Sunday September 24 is designated as Orange Shirt Sunday/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. You are invited to wear Orange.



### **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/>



### **Come Sing With Us . . .**

Add your voice to the chorus of praise that lifts our songs in worship at Central! The choir of Central Presbyterian Church seeks singers with good music reading abilities to join our regular weekly ministry. We also welcome additional singers to join us temporarily for special events in the Christmas and Easter seasons.

For information, please contact Dr. Marcus Scholtes, at [music@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:music@cpchamilton.ca)

*Interim Minister – The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis*

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

*Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell*

*Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes*

*Coordinator of Discipleship – Sara Traficante*

*General Accountant – Zafar Iqbal*

*Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma*

*Custodian – Rob Monkelbaan*

*Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

*Nursery Coordinator – Cathy Slattery*

Telephone: 905-522-9098 Email: [info@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca) [www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)

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## Prompts for Reflection



Photo by [John O'Nolan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Bible is into journeys. There are several significant ones throughout the Testaments. There is the overarching story of salvation which begins with our creation, moves to our fall, and ends with our redemption. There is the call to Abraham which begins in Ur of the Chaldeans and ends in the land of Canaan. There is of course the Exodus journey of the people of Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness of Sinia into the Promised Land. This is followed by the fall of the two kingdoms leading to the forced journey of the people of Israel into Babylonian exile. Exile is followed by return. The Hebrew scriptures are ringed by these journeys as psalmists, kings and prophets are caught up in them, trying to make sense of their God, their nation and themselves. They have formed us too, these stories, especially if we have been raised with them since childhood.

-- *Nick Athanasiadis*