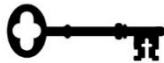




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



905-522-9098 | cpchamilton.ca
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 3, 2023 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday Advent: The Candle of Hope

Sunday Communion and Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath lighting – Sandor Family

Lector – Johanna DeBruin

Communion Prayers – Rev. Lois Whitwell

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Meditation on The Infant King*

D. Ratcliffe

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Hope Is A Star*

Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

(Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2023 by Lisa Hancock)

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

2. Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

3. Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.

4. Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN - All My Hope on God is Founded

462 (see pgs. 7-8)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Following the Time with the Children and the White Gift Collection,
a program for children SK - Grade 8 will be available in the upstairs Faith Finders room.
Children will return to the sanctuary prior to Communion.
Staffed Nursery is available for our young ones up to age 4 throughout the entire service.*

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE READING (pg. 694)

Isaiah 64:1-12

SCRIPTURE READING (pg. 50)

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON: *Expressing Hope*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN - All Earth is Waiting to See the Promised One

109 (see pg. 9)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Zion, At Thy Shining Gates*

B. Bruder, Arr. by G. Guest

*Zion, at thy shining gates Lo, the King of Glory waits,
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, Strew thy palms before his feet.
Christ, for thee their triple light, Faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display To proclaim thine advent day.*

*Come and give us peace within, Loose us from the bands of sin,
Take away the galling weight Laid on us by Satan's hate.
Give us grace thy yoke to wear, Give us strength thy cross to bear,
Make us thine in deed and word, Thine in heart and life, O Lord.*

*So, when thou shalt come to call, Judge of angels and of all.
We with all thy saints shall sing Alleluias to our King.*

* 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.***

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

HYMN - All Who Hunger; Gather Gladly

534 (see pgs. 10-11)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed and holy are you, O God, creator of all things. In the beginning, your Spirit moved over the waters, bringing order, light, and life out of chaos. You knit together our inward parts, made us in your image and breathed breath and life into us. When we turn away from you and our love fails, your love remains constant. When we wander off and follow ways of sin and death you call us from our scattered lives to repentance, unity and peace.

Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory:

**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.

Holy, mighty and tender God, in time you sent word to Mary that she would conceive a son and call him Jesus and in him we saw your promises incarnated. Dwelling among us we heard and saw Good News: welcome for the outcast, healing for the sick, and food for the hungry. In his suffering, death and resurrection, he delivered us from sin and death and revealed your living and redeeming hope for all people. And when he ascended into heaven, your Holy Spirit came to be our Counsellor and Comforter. And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ was promised.

Christ was born.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, world without end.

**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**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

Communion Music:

The Healing Fountain - D. Paxton
Lord, At Thy Feast - E. Broughton

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment,
this meal,
these people,
we give ourselves to you.

**Take us out
to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.**

**Ask much of us,
expect much of us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

So Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. AMEN.

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN – Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

110 (see pg. 8)

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fugue in G Minor*

G. Lasceux

All my hope on God is founded

MICHAEL 8 7 8 7 3 3 7

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with guitar chords and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

System 1: Chords: F, (/G), Cm6/E♭ B♭/D, Gm, C, 9, F, (/G), Cm. Lyrics: 1. All my hope on God is found - ed who does still my; 2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown, be -; 3. God's great good-ness reigns e - ter - nal, deep in wis - dom,; 4. Dai - ly does Al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on; 5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

System 2: Chords: Gm/D, D9, G, C11, Fsus2 - 1, F6, Dm/B, Em7. Lyrics: trust re - new; through all change and chance God guides me,; tray all trust; what our care and toil es - tab - lish,; pass - ing thought; light and life are all God's splen - dour; us be - stow, God's de - sire our soul de - light - ing,; praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

System 3: Chords: A, Dm7, Em7, C/E, Fmaj7, G7, C, F/A, F7, B♭, (/G). Lyrics: on - ly good and on - ly true. Love un - known,; tower and tem - ple, fall to dust, but God's power,; bring - ing beau - ty out of naught. Ev - er more; pleas - ure lead - ing where we go. Love will stand; for the gift of Christ, the Son. Hear Christ call

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650-1680); translation, Robert Bridges (1944-1930), alt
 Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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Cm/A Daug Gm Aaug/C# A7 Dm (7) G6 C 9 F

God's a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
 hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 from God's store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
 at God's hand; joy will wait on God's com - mand.
 one and all: you that fol - low shall not fall.

HYMN - Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

110

1. Come, thou longexpected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us;
 let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art,
 dear desire of every nation,
 joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver;
 born a child and yet a king,
 born to reign in us forever;
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit
 rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all sufficient merit
 raise us to thy glorious throne.

All earth is waiting

TAULÉ 11 12 12 11

D /F# G6 /B A 7

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el;
 3. Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be made plain;
 4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom-ised One ap - peared;

D F#m G Em7 A 7

and o - pen fur - rows a - wait the seed of God. All the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el," one whose
 o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for the Lord. He is
 yet feel his pres - ence through - out the earth to - day, for he

Bm F#m G Em6 D/F# F#m/A

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God - with - us" our Sav - iour shall be; with
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Chris - tians and is with us now; a -

Bm F#m |1-3. G6 Em7 A 7 |4. G6 A6 D

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
 him hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
 o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.
 gain, with his com - ing he brings us lib - er - ty.

Words: Alberto Taulé (1932-); translation, Gertrude C. Suppe (1911-) Music: Alberto Taulé (1932-); harmony, Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992)

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Communion

534

All who hunger, gather gladly

HOLY MANNA 8 7 8 7 D

Unison

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. All who hung - er, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
 2. All who hung - er, nev - er strang - ers, seek - er, be a
 3. All who hung - er, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is

B♭maj7 Dm C/E Dm C B♭maj7

is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - der - ing.
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.

Am B♭maj7 C6 F F /E Dm7 /C

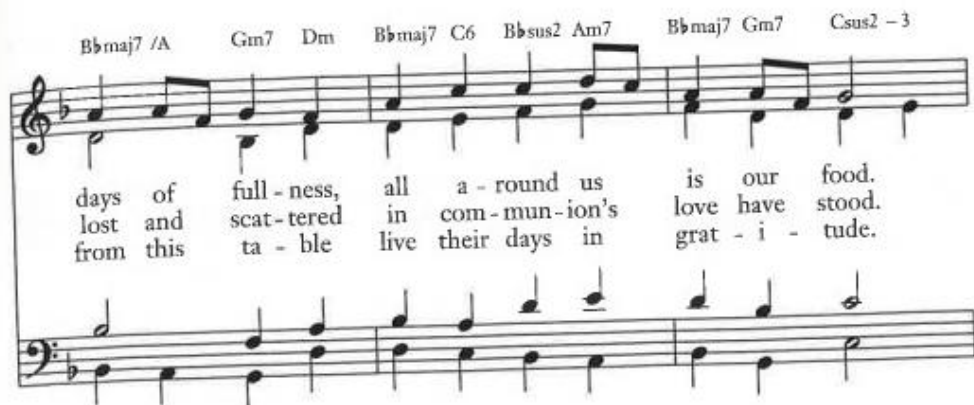
Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who

See also: Holy Manna 305

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993) Music: attributed to William Moore (fl.1825); harmony, Charles Anders (1929–)

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B♭maj7 /A Gm7 Dm B♭maj7 C6 B♭sus2 Am7 B♭maj7 Gm7 Csus2 - 3



days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion's love have stood.
 from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

F Dm C Gm7 Am B♭maj7 C6 C F



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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). Central's Prayer Team is available to receive needs in confidence. Contact Pam Carpenter at 905-526-0631 or 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). If you would like to be added to our email list, please let Helena know (helena@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098 ext. 0).

The sympathies of the congregation are extended to Helena Bootsma, our office administrator, on the passing of her Father, Dirk Eerdmans, on Sunday, November 26 in Montreal.

We hold Helena and her family in prayer, as they grieve his passing and give thanks for the gift of his life in their lives.

The visitation and funeral are scheduled for today and tomorrow in Montreal. Donations may be made to the First Christian Reformed Church of Montreal (52 Rue Joseph Paiement, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC H9A 1J1 <https://www.montrealcrc.org/>).

Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.* (John 14:27).

Volunteer Opportunity: If you are interested in welcoming people on Sunday mornings, we are planning to restart our **greeter list** (this has been paused since Covid). Please let Helena know if you would periodically enjoy sharing Central's hospitality with those who attend worship services (helena@cpchamilton.ca 905-522-9080 ext.0)

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/



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



Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Saturday, December 2, 12-2 p.m. **White Gift Card Drop off (Central's Alleyway)**
- ~ Sunday, December 3, 10:30 a.m. **Communion and White Gift Sunday**
- ~ Monday, December 4, 10 a.m.-noon **Hamilton Out of the Cold Café**
- ~ Tuesday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.- noon **Knit and Knatter Group**
- ~ Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. **Central's Book Club**
- ~ Wednesday, December 6, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Prime Time online**
- ~ Thursday, December 7, 3:30-5:00 p.m. **Hamilton Out of the Cold Meals to Go**
- ~ Thursday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**
- ~ Saturday, December 9, 12:00-3:00 p.m. **Durand Christmas Market**
- ~ Sunday December 10, 7:00pm **Candlelight Carol Service**
- ~ Wednesday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. – noon **Christmas Gathering (Guild Room)**
- ~ Sunday, December 17, after worship **Christmas Cookie Walk (Guild Room)**
- ~ Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. **Christmas Pageant**
- ~ Sunday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
- ~ Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Service**
- ~ Sunday, January 14, 3:00 p.m. **Chamber Music Concert: Sound Link**

Congregational Givings

OFFERING in support of the worship and mission of Central

You can support our good work by donating through various means. You can place a gift on the offering plate, use pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donate online, send money via Interac E-Transfer, or send a cheque to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca. Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes.

Please note that donations for 2023 should be received by the church or postmarked by December 31st.

For more information on ways to give, please visit <https://www.cpchamilton.ca/giving/>

Revenues (Other than that provided by Trustees) as of October 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Over (Short)
Congregational Givings	\$ 193,854	\$ 168,090	\$ (25,764)
Other Revenue	65,040	53,412	(11,628)
	\$ 258,894	\$ 221,502	\$ (37,392)

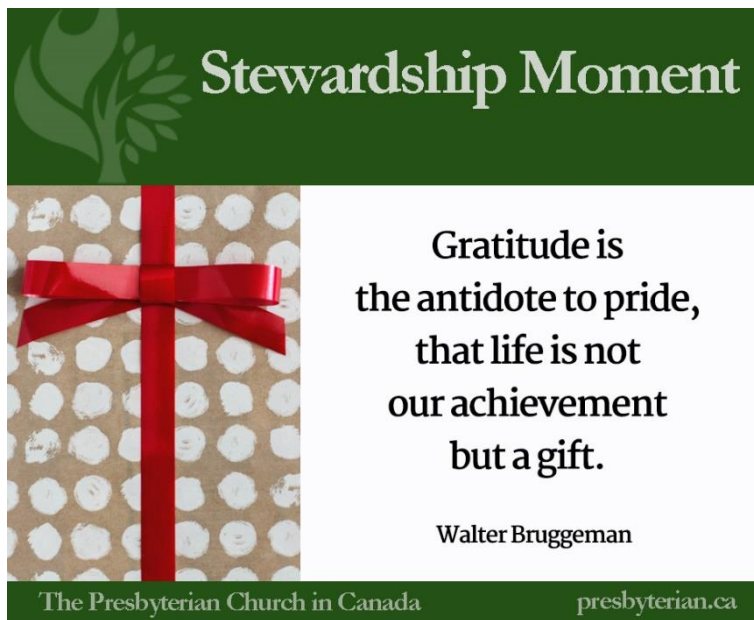
Note: There is a shortfall between budgeted and actual revenues and Trustees providing support.

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.

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 Central Presbyterian Church's Land Acknowledgement <https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>



Stewardship Moment

**Gratitude is
the antidote to pride,
that life is not
our achievement
but a gift.**

Walter Bruggeman

The Presbyterian Church in Canada presbyterian.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

Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebald

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

Nursery Coordinator – Cathy Slattery

Telephone: 905-522-9098

Email: info@cpchamilton.ca www.cpchamilton.ca

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Word of the Day:

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence (Isaiah 64:1)*

Prompts for Reflection



Noel Wangler Unsplash photos

We are afraid to name the truth about our world and ourselves in it. We are afraid, because, if we did, we might fall into hopelessness. And we have been nurtured for so long on this continent by easy wins and quick results that we do not have the spiritual muscle required to face our reality. This was not the case for Isaiah or Jesus and the people they addressed. They had no malls to retreat to, no cozy homes with electricity and running water, and laptops and screens, and a virtual world into which they might escape. They were bumping into, rubbing shoulders with, reality all the time.

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens and come down." This is an honest prayer, and maybe now we can pray it too!

- Nick Athanasiadis