



Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday December 10, 2023

7:00PM

O come let us adore Him



Candlelight Carol Service

presented by the choir of

Central Presbyterian Church

165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, Ontario

Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:00 p.m.

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE MUSIC: Hamilton Brass Quintet

Hodie Natus Est - J. P. Sweelinck

Carol of the Bells - M. Leontovich, Arr. by A. Frackenpohl

In The Bleak Midwinter - Arr. Jay

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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THE BIDDING AND PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

**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.**

ANTHEM: Gabriel's Message - E. Daley

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

*"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name." Most highly favoured lady; Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born in Bethl'em, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christan folk throughout the world will ever say, Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!
Gloria!*

THE FIRST LESSON ~ Genesis 3: 8-15

Reader: Chris Allen

"The consequences of Adam's sin."

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

122 vs. 1, 3, 5, 7

THE SECOND LESSON ~ Genesis 22: 15-18

Reader: Chris Allen

"God promises Adam in his seed all nations shall be blessed."

ANTHEM: All Bells In Paradise - J. Rutter

*Deep in the cold of winter, Darkness and silence were ev'rywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness a wonderful sound, a wonderful sound to hear:*

*All bells in paradise I heard them ring, Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring, Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring: 'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.*

*Lost in awe and wonder, Doubting, I asked what this sign might be:
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable, A marvellous sight, a marvellous sight to see.
He comes down in peace, a child in humility, The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures, gold incense and myrrh, incense and myrrh.*

All bells in paradise I heard them ring: 'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing, sweetly sing.

"The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour."

CENTRAL YOUTH CHOIR: Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo - D. Ouchterlony

*I have no gold, my baby Jesus, I have no wealth, no precious stone;
All I can bring to my Jesus, A King with a manger His throne,
Is Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo. King of the whole earth, King of my own!*

*If I had toys, my baby Jesus, Worthy of Thee, with them I'd part;
But I have nothing that's worthy, Lord Jesus, how blessed Thou art.
Sing Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo. King of the whole earth, King of my heart!*

*My life I give to you, Jesus, Poor though it is, no longer mine.
What I can do, my Lord Jesus, I promise, my life will be guided by Thine.
Sing Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo. King of the whole earth, My King divine!*

THE FOURTH LESSON ~ Micah 5: 2-4

Reader: Chris Allen

"The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem."

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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THE FIFTH LESSON ~ Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Reader: Giselle Swanepoel

"The angel Gabriel visits Mary."

ANTHEM: Here Is The Little Door - H. Howells

*Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more, but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head; All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.*

*Bend low about His bed, For each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake, Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.*

THE SIXTH LESSON ~ Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Reader: Giselle Swanepoel

"Luke tells of the birth of Jesus."

HYMN: What Child Is This

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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hamilton Brass Quintet: A Carol Fantasy - J. Iveson

Good King Wenceslas, Away In A Manger, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

ANTHEM: The Infant King - From an Old Basque Noël, Arr. by E. Pettman

With Charlton String Quartet

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining Over the place where He is lying, Sing lullaby.*

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby! Hush do not wake the infant King,
Soon will come sorrow with the morning, Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby!*

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby! is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby! Hush, do not stir the infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning. Conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!*

THE SEVENTH LESSON ~ Luke 2: 8-16

Reader: Rev. Lois Whitwell

"The shepherds go to the manger."

CHARLTON STRING QUARTET: Carol of the Bells - Trad. Carol, Arr. by A. van Haren

THE EIGHTH LESSON ~ Matthew 2: 1-11

Reader: Rev. Lois Whitwell

"The wise men are led by the star to Jesus."

ANTHEM: Ding Dong! Merrily on High - English Trad. Arr. by R. Michael

*Ding dong! merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io, By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

THE NINTH LESSON ~ John 1:1-14

Reader: Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

"The Gospel of John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation."

ANTHEM: Past Three O'Clock - Trad. Arr. by C. Wood

Refrain:

*Past three o'clock, And a cold, frosty morning:
Past three o'clock: Good morrow, masters all!*

- 1. Born is a Baby, Gentle as may be, Son of th' eternal Father supernal. Refrain*
- 2. Seraph quire singeth, Angel bell ringeth: Hark how they rime it, Time it and chime it! Refrain*
- 3. Mid earth rejoices Hearing such voices Ne'ertofore so well Carolling 'Nowell'. Refrain*
- 4. Cheese from the dairy Bring they for Mary, And, not for money, Butter and honey. Refrain*
- 5. Light out of star-land Leadeth from far land Princes to meet him, Worship and greet him. Refrain*
- 6. Myrrh from full coffer, Incense they offer; Nor is the golden Nugget withholden. Refrain*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Christmas Carol Suite for Organ - T. Marier

~ A special thank you to the guest participants in tonight's service ~

The Choir of Central Presbyterian Church

Under the direction of Dr. Marcus Scholtes, Central's *Director of Music Ministries*

Soprano

Jessie-Ann Bradshaw
Margaret Bowers
Linie Broer
Johanna de Bruin
Stephanie Fifield
Paula Grove
Kasia Konstanty
Claire Macpherson
Emma Reilly McKay
Caroleen Molenaar
Marilyn Repchuck
Valerie Smith
Elspeth Thomson

Tenor

Hubert de Bruin
Brent Fifield
Jim Reilly
Emile Swanepoel
Gustav Swanepoel

Hamilton Brass Quintet

Philip Seguin, Trumpet
Mary Jay, Trumpet
Neil Spaulding, Horn
Megan Hodge, Trombone
Jen Stephen, Tuba

Charlton String Quartet

Marcus Scholtes, Violin
Sharon Lee, Violin
Elspeth Thomson, Viola
Kirk Starkey, Cello

Alto

Seke Fowode
Caitlin Fralick
Judy Lindeman
Beth Mackay Reilly
Christine Sandor
Frances Searle
Connie Trotter
Janet Warren
Katie Weresch

Bass

Michael Davis
Mike Fox
Sam Hogeterp
Steve Pierre
Jeremy Sandor
Tom Sproule

Central's Youth Choir

Sara Traficante, Director
Nathan Bello
Duncan McKay
Kelvin Olumide
Ramona Starkey
Kene Umezie
Neto Umezie
Risa Umezie
Abigail Weresch
Rachel Weresch

Readers: Chris Allen, Nathan Bello, Giselle Swanepoel, Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Welcome to Central this evening!



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).

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!

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, include your envelope # or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

***The OFFERING this evening is in support
of the Music Ministry of Central Presbyterian Church***

Joy may be the last thing we are thinking about, even though we are approaching a time of the year when such is what we are looking forward to: “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10)! We may feel guilt even at the possibility of anticipating or expecting joy, when so much anguish is playing out on our daily news. Our heart breaks and is far from joy. Is it then possible to open ourselves to God’s abiding joy? Even in the shadows of devastation, trauma, or spiritual deficit?



I think the answer may be “yes.” Preceding the “good news of great joy” is this angelic assurance: “do not be afraid.” Pierre Teilhard de Chardain, French theologian and scientist, has said that “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” This is anything but forcing “happiness.” It is rather opening our soul, even if it is a frightened fraction of our soul, to the vibrating energy which is the healing balm, the strength in weakness, which we do not and cannot manufacture but only receive as beggars receive food. Joy is not dependent on circumstance, if it was, it can come and go. So, I think our scriptures point to something else, indeed – to some-one.

The key which unlocks the possibility of joy is not circumstance but a person – *to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord* (Luke 2:11). So, joy comes to us when it is most needed. God has been present, can be present, even in foxholes and hellholes. This is not the same as ignorance, not the same as denial, rather it is precious connection to faith and hope that the world as it is, is not as it should be or will be forever. Because at least once in a moment of time, the divine love broke into our world, in its sadness, in its heartbreak, in its despair, and because this is the divine life, it is eternal life, life which is stronger than death and manifesting a love which is stronger, must be stronger, than hate.

The Christ is a moment of tender joy, daring to see through the thick fog of war, and suffering and crying to consolation and restoration. When we yearn for joy like water to the thirsty and bread to the hungry, we know it more deeply than circumstance when it does come. It is what we read not only in the gospel stories of Christ’s birth, but also in the vision of the resurrected Christ at the end of time:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'* (Revelation 21: 3-4).

This is our fervent unceasing prayer while we are alive.



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.

Stewardship Moment

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

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/

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

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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Celebrate Christmas!

**Sunday December 17 - 10:30 A.M.
The Candle of Joy**

**Sunday December 24 - Christmas Eve
The Candle of Love**

**Christmas Pageant - 10:30 A.M.
Cloth for the Cradle**

Candlelight Communion - 8:00 PM

**Sunday December 31 - New Year's Eve
10:30 AM Worship - A Blessing**



**Central
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Church**

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Hamilton, ON
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