



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

165 Charlton Ave. W. Hamilton, ON

December 24, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Interim Minister - Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries - Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Instrumentalists - Sara Traficante, Kirk Starkey

Lector - James Beloshesky

Communion Intersessions - Rev. Lois Whitwell

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this evening!

O come let us adore Him



* Indicates standing, as you are able.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE *The First Noel/It Came Upon a Midnight Clear/Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella*
Carols arr. Eugénie R. Rocherolle

INTROIT - *Hope Is A Star* Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119 v. 4

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart.
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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these desires fulfilled in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! AMEN.

Light Christ candle.

* HYMN – Once in Royal David’s City

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

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

3. and our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

2. Christ came down to earth from
heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
sheltered by a humble stable,
cradled in a cattle stall:
with the poor, oppressed and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy,

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there God's children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

* HYMN – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

143 (see pgs. 8 -9)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 638)

Isaiah 9:2-7

GOSPEL READING (p. 58)

Luke 2:1-14

MUSICAL REFLECTION – *What Child Is This*

English Carol, arr. Eugénie R. Rocherolle

GOSPEL READING (p. 91)

John 1:1-14

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: **Light in the Silent Night**

* HYMN - O Holy Night

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERING - *In the Bleak Midwinter*

H. Darke, Words by C. Rossetti

*In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.*

*Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, A stable place suffic'd
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, who cherubin Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, And a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel Which adore.*

*What can I give him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart, give, give my heart.*

* 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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

* CAROL - *I Wonder as I Wander* (Soloist, vs. 1; Congregation vs. 2, 3 & 4) 142 (see pg. 10)

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

831

**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 debts,**

**As we forgive our debtors,
As we forgive our debtors,
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**

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

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

*Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!"*

*Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on Adeste Fideles*

G. Shaw

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!

Infant holy, Infant lowly

POLISH CAROL 87878877

G (B) D (F#) G /B C

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a
 2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the

D 7 G D G/B G D7/A (F#) D

cat - tle stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing
 morn - ing new, saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry,

G /B C D 7 G G/B C (B)

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing
 tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing,

Words: translation, Edith M.G. Reed (1885-1933) Music: Polish traditional carol; harmony, A.E. Rusbridge (1917-1969)

Words: copyright © Evans Brothers Ltd. Music: harmony, copyright © Rosalind Rusbridge

Am D (/C) Bm Em Am7 Dsus4 - 3

an - gels sing - ing, no - wells ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row:

G (/B) C *G/D D7 G

Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 Christ the babe was born for you.

G/D /B Am 7 *D7 Gsus4 - 3

Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 Christ the babe was born for you.

Alternate melody: C B

I wonder as I wander

I WONDER AS I WANDER 11 11 11 11

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo and meter are indicated as 11 11 11 11. Chords are written above the treble staff.

System 1: Chords: Gm, Cm7G, Gm7, Cm6/G. Lyrics: 1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
2. When Ma - ry birth'd Je - sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with
3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

System 2: Chords: Gm, Cm7/G, Gm7. Lyrics: Je - sus the Sav - iour did come for to die for
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, but
star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or
Je - sus the Sav - iour did come for to die for

System 3: Chords: Gm, Cm7/G, Gm7, G7. Lyrics: poor or'n - 'ry peo - ple like you and like I; I
high from God's heav - en a star's light did fall; the
all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, he
poor or'n - 'ry peo - ple like you and like I; I

System 4: Chords: Cm, Gm, Ebmaj7/A, Gm7, C#v/G, Optional Coda, Gm. Lyrics: won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
prom - ise of a - ges it then did re - call.
sure - ly could have it, 'cause he was the King.
won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky. Out un - der the sky.

Words: traditional Appalachian carol; adaptation, John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)

Music: American traditional, John Jacob Niles (1892–1980); arrangement, Donald P. Hustad (1918–)

Words: copyright © G. Schirmer Inc. (ASCAP) 1934 (Renewed) International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: copyright © G. Schirmer Inc. (ASCAP) 1934 (Renewed) International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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/

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). 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.

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.

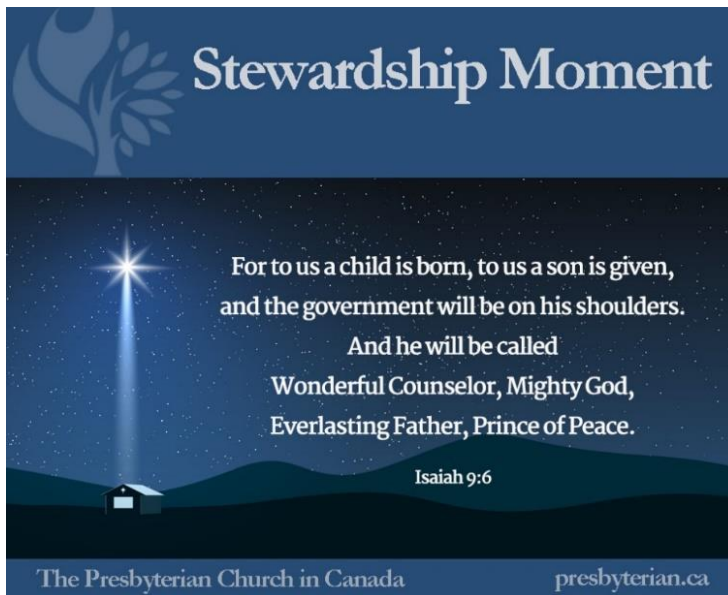
* Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement
<https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

Congregational Givings

OFFERING in support of the worship and mission of Central

You can support this good work by donating in 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. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

Income Tax Receipts: To have your offering included for 2023 income tax purposes, it must be received at the Church, or postmarked *no later than Sunday, December 31st*. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date with your elder or the church office. This is very important in keeping our church records up to date in preparation of the 2023 income tax receipts.



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 Frebold

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

Central's Copyright license: © CCLI #2886178