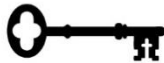




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TO WORSHIP GOD,  
*to grow as disciples of Jesus,*  
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,  
*to take God's love to the world.*



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 10, 2023 10:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday Advent: The Candle of Peace  
Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath lighting – Fowode Family

Lector – Rev. Lois Whitwell

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

\* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Three Preludes on "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her"*  
(From Heaven Above, I Come)

F. W. Zachau

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Hope Is A Star* Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119 v.2

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.*

*Refrain: 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 days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared,  
"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to  
Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is  
paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins"  
(Isaiah 40:1).

Reader: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied  
with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long  
for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community,  
equity, and flourishing for all.**

Reader: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace.  
May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus  
Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can  
gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.*

(Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2023 by Lisa Hancock)

5. Oh come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.
6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.
7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart, one mind;  
bid envy, strife and discord cease  
and be thyself our source of peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

## 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

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour  
comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song!
2. You come the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before you burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
3. You come the broken heart to bind,  
the wounded soul to cure,  
to bring the treasures of God's grace,  
good tidings for the poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your most honoured name.

## GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

**Psalm 85** in the Red Book of Psalms, **Refrain I**

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 (pg. 249)

**Revelation 7:9-17**

SERMON: *Under a Sheltering Sky*

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* HYMN – People in Darkness

124 (see pg. 5)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *The Infant King*

Trad. Basque Noël, Arr. by Edgar Pettman

*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 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 (sung)

*Our Father, who art in heaven*

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 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 - Let there be light

727 (see pg. 6)

\* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come*

C. Callahan

Advent  
124

## People in darkness

PEOPLE IN DARKNESS 10 6 10 5 11 8

1. Peo-ple in dark-ness are look-ing for light.  
2. Peo-ple with sick-ness are pray-ing for health. Come, come,  
3. Peo-ple in trou-ble would like to be free.  
4. Peo-ple in sad-ness are try-ing to sing.

come, Je-sus Christ. Peo-ple with blind-ness are long-ing for sight.  
Peo-ple in pov-er-ty want to have wealth.  
Peo-ple with ar-gu-ments want to a-gree.  
Bells in the stee-ple are wait-ing to ring.

Come, Lord Je-sus Christ. These days of ad-ven-ture when

all peo-ple wait are days for the ad-vent of (1) love.  
(2) hope.  
(3) peace.  
(4) joy.

Chords: D, Em, F#m, Gmaj7, A, Bm, Em7, A, Em, /D, A/C#, D, Bm, E7, Asus4 - 3, A/G, D/F#, Em7, F#, G6, D/A, A7, D

Words: Dositia Carlson (20th cent.); v.4 Ken Stright (1952-), Jeanne Stright (1953-) Music: Dositia Carlson (20th cent.)

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# Let there be light

CONCORD 4776

G /B C Dsus4 - 3 /C G/B Am7 (D/A) G/B C6 G/D D

1. Let there be light;  
2. O - pen our lips;  
3. Per - ish the sword;  
4. Hal - low our love;

let there be un - der - stand - ing;  
o - pen our minds to pon - der;  
per - ish the an - gry judge - ment;  
hal - low the deaths of mar - tyr;

D/C G/B C D6 - 7 Em Am9 D 7 G

let all the na - tions ga - ther; let them be face to face.  
o - pen the door of con - cord, o - pen - ing in - to grace.  
per - ish the bombs and hun - ger; per - ish the fight for gain.  
hal - low their ho - ly free - dom; hal - low - ed be your name.

5. Your kingdom come;  
your spirit turn to language;  
your people speak together;  
your spirit never fade.

6. Let there be light;  
open our hearts to wonder;  
perish the way of terror;  
hallow the world God made.

Words: Frances Wheeler Davis (1936-) Music: Robert J.B. Fleming (1921-1976)

Words: copyright © Frances Wheeler Davis Music: copyright © Margaret Fleming

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).

### **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/)



### **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)

## 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/>



*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](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca) [www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)

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## Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Saturday, December 9, 12:00-3:00 p.m.      **Durand Christmas Market**
- ~ Sunday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.            **Second Sunday of Advent**
- ~ Sunday December 10, 7:00pm                **Candlelight Carol Service**
- ~ Monday, December 11, 10 a.m.-noon        **Hamilton Out of the Cold Café**
- ~ Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.- noon   **Knit and Knatter Group**
- ~ Wednesday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. – noon **Christmas Gathering** (Guild Room)
- ~ Thursday, December 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.    **Hamilton Out of the Cold Meals to Go**
- ~ Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.         **Choir Practice**
- ~ Sunday, December 17, 10:30 a.m.           **Third Sunday of Advent**
- ~ Sunday, December 17, after worship        **Christmas Cookie Walk** (Guild Room)
- ~ Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m.         **Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Pageant**
- ~ Sunday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.          **Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service**
- ~ Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m.              **In Memoriam Service**
- ~ Sunday, January 14, 3:00 p.m.              **Chamber Music Concert: Sound Link**

**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](mailto:helena@cpchamilton.ca) 905-522-9080 ext.0)

## 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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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**

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

**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.

## Prompts for Reflection



*One function of the 'unveiling' or Revelation of John is to lift our sight, to give us a different point of view. To help us believe in alternatives, not human-made alternatives, but ones which are beyond our power to conceive or to effect. We can be so locked-in to the present,*

*whether its humdrumness or its horror, that we cannot vision alternatives. John wanted his people, his suffering brothers and sisters, to behold an alternative vision which he receives from transcendence, from heaven.*

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,*

*'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'  
And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,  
'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'*

*- Nick Athanasiadis*