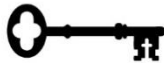




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Joy

Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath lighting – Olumide Family

Lector – Dr. Mary Guise

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Advent Prelude on Divinum Mysterium*

J. R. Watkinson

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Hope Is A Star* Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119 v.3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light the third (pink) candle of the Advent wreath.

(Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2023 by Lisa Hancock)

* HYMN – Sing a New Song Unto the Lord

422 (see pgs. 6-7)

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 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

139 (see pg. 8)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 126 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.

SCRIPTURE READING (pg. 1)

Genesis 1:26-31

SCRIPTURE READING (pg. 198)

Philippians 4:1-7

SERMON: *Made for Joy*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN - Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

159

1. Oh come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels:

(Refrain)

Oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created:
(Refrain)

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh
with holy fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
(Refrain)

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest!'
(Refrain)

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be
glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
(Refrain)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Rejoice in the Lord Alway*

Anon. - 16th century

*Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God, with giving of thanks,
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. 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 (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 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**

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN – Go Tell It On The Mountain

133 (see pg. 9)

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *People, Look East*

French Carol, Setting by J. Leavitt

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).

Worship

422

Sing a new song unto the Lord

SING A NEW SONG 7 6 9 6 with refrain (8 9 8 6)

Unison

Refrain

G D D#dim Em Am7

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be

D /C G/B D7/A G G/B D

sung from moun - tain's height. Sing a new song

D#dim Em Am7 G6/B D 7 G Fine

un - to the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!

Words: Psalm 98; paraphrase, Daniel L. Schutte Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), arrangement Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF (1915-1992)

Words: paraphrase, copyright © Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, 1974, 1979. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: copyright © Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, 1974, 1979. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

G D7/A Am/G D/F# Em /D C6 G6/B

1. For God's peo - ple dance for joy. Oh come be - fore the
 2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - iour now has
 3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry of the

D7/A G D7/F# G D7/A Am/G /E D

Lord, play for the Lord on glad tam - bou - rines, and
 come. He has turned your sor - row to joy, and
 Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I

C Am7 Dsus4- 2- 3 D.C. al Fine

let your trum - pet sound.
 filled your soul with song.
 know my Sav - iour lives.

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D with refrain

G D G/B G G/D D G/B C 6 G/D D G

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King,
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-eous-ness!

G D Em G/D A7/C# Bm A/C# D /F# Gmaj7 A7 D

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

G/B D7/F# G G/D D G/B D7/F# G G/D D

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty!
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

C Am/CE7 Am D/C G/B G G/D D7 G

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt; French, Edmond L. Budry (1854-1932)
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); arrangement, William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915)
 Words: French translation, copyright © World Student Christian Federation from Cantate Domino Music: public domain

C Am/C E Am /G D/F# /C G/B G /D D7 G

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King.

Go, tell it on the mountain

GO, TELL IT 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G C/G G G/B D D7 Em/D D G C/B Am7 D7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where.

G C/G G G/B Am/C Am G/D D7 G Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

C/G G G/B D Em D G

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo, a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G C G/B G G/B A A7 D/F# D7 D.C.

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - iour's birth!
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901-1967)

Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901-1967), alt

Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940

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 - 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/>



Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Sunday, December 17, 10:30 a.m. **Third Sunday of Advent**
- ~ Sunday, December 17, after worship **Christmas Cookie Walk (Guild Room)**
- ~ Monday, December 18, 10 a.m.-noon **Hamilton Out of the Cold Café**
- ~ Thursday, December 21, 3:30-5:00 p.m. **Hamilton Out of the Cold Meals to Go**
- ~ Thursday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**
- ~ 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, December 31, 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Worship – New Year’s Eve**
- ~ Wednesday, January 3, 1:00–2:00 p.m. **Prime Time online**
- ~ Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Service**
- ~ Tuesday, January 9, 10:00 a.m.- noon **Knit and Knatter Group**
- ~ Wednesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon **Senior’s In-person Gathering (Guild Room)**
- ~ Sunday, January 14, 3:00 p.m. **Chamber Music Concert: Sound Link**

The Church Office will be closed from December 25 – 29. Phone messages and emails will be checked periodically.

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)

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.

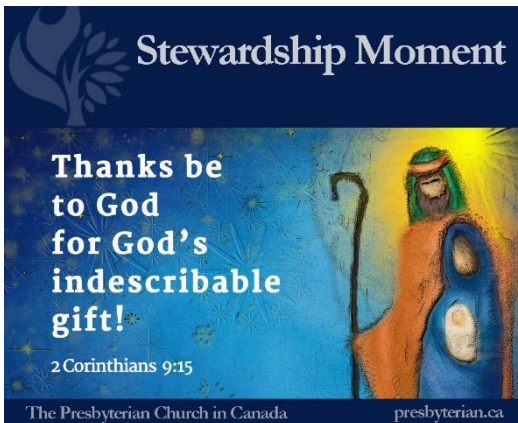
For more information on ways to give, please visit <https://www.cpchamilton.ca/giving/>

Revenues (Other than that provided by Trustees) as of November 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Over (Short)
Congregational Givings	\$ 211,479	\$ 182,444	\$ (29,035)
Other Revenue	70,331	59,796	(10,535)
	\$ 281,810	\$ 242,240	\$ (39,570)

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.



Stewardship Moment

Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

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 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
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Prompts for Reflection

Word of the day:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4: 4-5).



We celebrate Christmas! Of course, we do—we need to. We need the hope, the peace, the joy, the love, the blessing, and the encouragement. We celebrate Christmas even when, especially when, “it is tinged with anxiety and fear, and the realism that life can be difficult,” writes Bruce Epperly following his own hard experience as a father caring for and loving his son who was gravely ill. “But, make no mistake,” he continues, “this is the world in which the Christ-child comes— the world of grieving spouses, homeless families, frightened immigrants; a world of care and uncertainty. This is precisely where ‘we need a little Christmas’—not false hope or a good-time God, but an all-season spirituality, grounded in a love that embraces the dark night and the joyful dawn.”

--quoted from Bruce Eperly's essay, "The Joy - and Ambiguity - of Christmas"