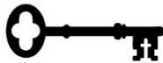




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 31, 2023 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Soloist – Emma Reilly McKay

Lector – Lynn DeGrace

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Hymn Prelude on Es ist ein Ros (Lo How A Rose Is Growing)* Setting by J. H. Schaffner

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A Child has been given to us.

**Congregation: And his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Once we were no people;

Now we are God's people.

Once we walked in darkness;

Now we have seen a great light.

* HYMN – Angels From the Realms of Glory

146

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.

Refrain:
Come and worship, come and
worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light.

5. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down.

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 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven

156

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'O lowly maiden Mary,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

2. 'For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleases God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 148 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 (p. 59)

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON: *A Blessing*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN – Of Eternal Love Begotten

163 (see pgs. 5-6)

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO *He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd, from "Messiah"* G. F. Handel

*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*

*Come unto him, all ye that labour, come unto him, that are heavy laden,
and he will give you rest.*

*Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart:
and ye shall find rest, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

* 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 – Come in, Come In, New Year

808 (see pg. 7)

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Two Variations and Gigue on 'Antioch'* G. F. Handel, Setting by J. H. Schaffner

Of eternal love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8787877

E C#m E F#m B

1. Of e - ter - nal love be - got - ten un - cre - at - ed One-in-Three,
 2. This, the one whom heaven-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac-cord,
 3. Oh that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin, full of grace,
 4. All the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gels end - less prais - es sing,
 5. God Re - deem - er, God Cre - a - tor, God the Spir - it, now to thee

F#m E/G# (A) B6 C#m F#m C#m (F#m) B E

Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ, the Source, the End will be
 whom the scrip - tures of the pro - phets pro - mised in their faith - ful word;
 by the Spi - rit's power con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - iour of our race,
 all earth bow to Christ our Sov - ereign, and our joy - ful tri - bute bring;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be,

Words: Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413); translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt; v.3, The Psalter Hymnal 1987 Music: Plainsong, 12th century; arrangement, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Michael Willan, executor of the estate of Healey Willan

C#m B G#m (C#m) B E/G# A

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 shines a - mong us, long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion
 and the child, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, eve - ry voice in
 hon - our, glo - ry and do - min - ion and e - ter - nal

C#m G#m C#m G#m (C#m) B E

years shall see,
 praise its Lord,
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 con - cert ring,
 vic - to - ry,

Come in, come in, New Year

CROFT'S 136TH 666688

C G7/D C/E C F G/B C /E C/G G7

1. Come in, come in, New Year with spar - kling win - ter
 2. Come in, New Year, and sell your wares of chance and
 3. For though De - cem - ber dies, still Christ - mas keeps the
 4. The cal - en - dar of Christ will mark the sea - sons'

C D /C G/B Am 6 G D/F#

day!* Your prom - ise calls us here to
 change: en - gage us with your spell to
 light, the hope in chil - dren's eyes, the
 turn; his sto - ry claim our trust; his

G /B C6 D G C/E F C/E

cel - e - brate and pray, through Jan - u - ar - y's
 risk and re - ar - range, to feel the Spir - it's
 star that shat - ters night; now Sim - e - on and
 love be ours to learn. For all the world, for

* original words: shining summer day

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-) Music: William Croft (1678-1727); harmony, Hymns Ancient and Modern, revised 1950

Words: copyright © 1996 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain

Dm6 E /D Am/C E7/B Am C/E C/G C7 C

o - pen door to stride with hope - ful step once more.
 im - pulse beat, to fol - low down a dif - ferent street.
 An - na see the child who rules all time to be.
 young and old, we pray a year of peace un - fold!

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!

Dr Nick Athanasiadis will be away January 3-25.

Supplying the pulpit and leading worship during this time:

January 7 – The Rev. Lois Whitwell – Director of Pastoral Care

January 14 – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson – Interim Moderator

January 21 – The Rev. Dr. Nancy Calvert-Koyzis – Minister in Association,
McNab Street Presbyterian Church

We are privileged and glad to welcome these ministry leaders!

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 inform Helena (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/



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

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.

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)

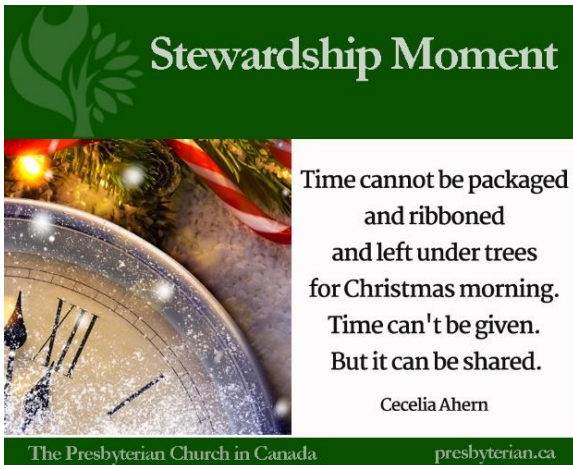
Note: There is a shortfall between budgeted and actual revenues and Trustees providing support.

Mission Committee Reminder:

There is a basket in our main entrance to the sanctuary for [Hamilton Food Share](#). You may bring non-perishable items anytime which supports those in need.

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ 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**
- ~ Thursday, January 4, 3:30-5:00 p.m. **Hamilton Out of the Cold Meals to Go**
- ~ Thursday, January 4, 7:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**
- ~ Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Worship Service**
- ~ Monday, January 8, 10 a.m.-noon **Hamilton Out of the Cold Café**
- ~ 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)
Guest Speaker from Hamilton Police Services; Topic: Scams
- ~ Sunday, January 14, 3:00 p.m. **Chamber Music Concert: Sound Link**



Stewardship Moment

Time cannot be packaged
and ribboned
and left under trees
for Christmas morning.
Time can't be given.
But it can be shared.

Cecelia Ahern

The Presbyterian Church in Canada presbyterian.ca

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)

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/>

In Memoriam: January 7th, 2024 ~ Worship Service

Dear Friends,

I have always been intrigued by how often the Bible reminds us to remember. One of the most oft repeated phrases is “remember God’s steadfast love.” Sometimes remembering can be hard and sometimes our memories are a gift.

There is a tradition at Central that we take the time to remember those who have passed away whether within our congregation or friends. We are continuing this tradition on January 7th as part of our regular worship service. We invite you to fill in the below form and return it to us by January 3rd, 2023. Please include the name of the person you would like to be remembered and something about them.

In the service, we will light a candle in remembrance. There will be a time for contemplation and silence as each name is read. You are invited to the Lectern during this time to read the names of your loved ones.

Losing a loved one affects us deeply. We hope this service will be a time when we honour those we love, who have passed away.

Together in Christ

Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Pastoral Care
lois@cpchamilton.ca
905-522-9098 ext. 2

Here is the form link to submit names of those who passed away (or contact Rev. Lois or Helena for assistance):

<https://forms.gle/kDBuDdYXmCnDat6DA>

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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Prompts for Reflection

Word of the Day:

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'
(Luke 2: 29-32)

Reflection on the Painting

"Our painting today isn't an old master painting. It was painted only in 2012 by Russian artist Andrey Shishkin. A self-taught artist, he has been painting for over 20 years, mainly focusing on portraits. I think the look on Simeon's face is exquisite: we see age, wisdom, thoughtfulness, but above all, genuine love for baby Jesus. A gentle light is emanating from Jesus, whilst another beam of light is shining from above, illuminating Simeon's head. . . .

Today's reading speaks to us about the longing between humanity and divinity. The same goes for us when we go to church. We don't just simply go there to fulfil our Sunday duty. Our worship reveals what we value most. Going to church reveals what and who we love. This longing, wanting to spend time with God, shapes us into the people that He wants us to be. Longing is not a void inside ourselves that is waiting to be filled... longing is a fullness of love that is simply waiting to be expressed"...



Simeon holding Jesus, Painted by **Andrey Shishkin** (born 1960) Painted in 2012, Oil on canvas

The painting and full description above may be found in the link below.
<https://www.christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/649>