

# CONTACT

*To worship God, grow as Jesus' disciples,  
care for one another, and take God's love to the world.*

## *We think we know . . .*

One Rabbi (Nicodemus) says to another Rabbi (Jesus): “we know you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can pull off these signs that you do unless God is with him” (John 3.2).

This conversation is happening at night, away from the public eye.

But Jesus' answer to Nicodemus is puzzling.

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus thinks he knows, but Jesus is going to lead him into another way of *knowing and living*.

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

To Nicodemus, these words are like a bad riddle. How can anyone be born after growing old?

In the face of the “we know” of Nicodemus, Jesus proposes another way: the way of “not knowing,” of “being born from above.”

We too think we know the important things, we must know! How else can we act or try to influence our future? But our human story is one of mistaking our ideas for the world - mistaking our models, our traditions, our convictions - for reality.

Thomas Kuhn coined the term “paradigm shift” for massive changes in perspective: our mathematical models of how the universe works—Einstein's relativity upends Newton's clockwork cosmos, and suddenly space and time work differently in the universe than they do inside our small planet; our political models of how the world works—the French Revolution upends the feudal system, and suddenly ordinary people storm the castle, face down king and nobles and realize they now have power to decide for themselves; our personal models of how the self works—you think you know who you are until your little girl is fighting for her life, and you think things, say things, do things, you never imagined possible.

In yet another realm, commercial media, social media, are selling us all a brand of reality, but they have an agenda. Their agenda is their bottom line. If it is not profitable, they will not sell it. There are other stories, other versions, other perspectives on reality, but you will not get it from them.

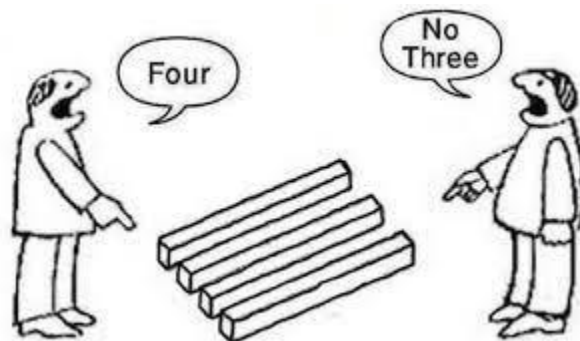
In the story of Plato's Cave, written back in 300 B.C.E., prisoners have lived their entire lives chained inside a cave. Behind the prisoners is a fire, and between the fire and the prisoners are people carrying puppets or other objects. These cast shadows on the opposite wall. The prisoners watch these shadows, believing them to be real as they've known nothing else.

Plato posits that one prisoner could become free. He finally sees the fire and realizes the shadows are fake. This prisoner could escape from the cave and discover there is a whole new world outside they were previously unaware of. If he comes back down to tell others of a reality outside the cave, he may be killed. For the journey from the cave to the light of day is a very painful one. At first one is blinded by the light of the sun. The eyes need to adjust from the darkness to the light.

For Plato, reality is seen only in the light of the sun. And, ultimately, what mortal has a full-on God's-eye view?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD” (Is. 55:8).

In view of all this, humility is in order in our science, in our politics, but also in our religion! Especially when we think we know, when we look down, judge, or even kill the other in order to proclaim, “the truth.”



Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis,  
Interim Minister

## **From your Interim Moderator - Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson**

Greetings one and all. My tenure as your Interim Moderator began on January 1st of this year. Since then, I have been busy acquainting myself with the congregation, its leadership and its history. For the last couple of years, the Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis has done an amazing job of helping the congregation to heal from past hurts and preparing you to move forward as a thriving congregation. Rest assured that he will continue to do that important work - and I'll focus upon leading the congregation through the search process. This means that Nick and I will be working separately but together to help this community of faith move into the future that God has in store for you.

On January 14th (during Nick's recent vacation), I was honoured to have had the opportunity to lead worship at Central. Following the service, I spent some time introducing myself and informing those who were present what to expect as we begin this journey together. I'll continue that updating here.

In January, the Session didn't meet until the end of the month. At that meeting, I began "getting the ball rolling" regarding the search process. At the next Presbytery meeting on February 13th, I'll be seeking the requisite permissions needed to formally begin the search process. Then, at the next Session meeting in early March I'll be working with the Session to put together a Search Committee (which hopefully fully represents the diverse people and groups at Central). Note: If approached by a member of Session to consider serving on this committee, please prayerfully consider it because it's an extremely important task you will be engaging in. From there we'll move to doing a congregational analysis and creating a congregational profile to present to future candidates, etc...

Hopefully, all this will eventually lead to that special candidate being found, asked to preach for the call – and then becoming your new minister. But all this won't happen overnight. It takes time. So please be patient with me, with the church leadership and with the process itself. In the meantime, as we begin this process, I'll continue to communicate and let you know what's going on.



My friends, may God richly bless and guide us all as we begin this journey together - and engage in this holy task.

*Philip*

Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson, Interim Moderator



### **Your Invitation To the Lord' Supper**



**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Also via Livestream at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchHamilton>**



## View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Happy New Year! As I am writing this, I am reflecting on the wonderful musical events that concluded 2023. Central's annual Candlelight Carol service again highlighted all the talent we have within our walls, and we were blessed again with extra choristers joining in - we had a total of 29 choristers singing seven anthems interspersed with congregational carols and readings. The Hamilton Brass Quintet lead by Neil Spaulding nearly blew the roof off with their fanfares and descants! This service was followed two weeks later by our Children's Pageant and 8:00pm Candlelight service for Christmas Eve, both beautifully performed by all!

Central rang in the New Year with a truly special musical event: on January 14th, eleven professional musicians came together to perform the first inaugural concert of the 'Sound Linc Chamber Orchestra'. Sound Linc is made up of professional musicians that reside IN Hamilton, many that actually live quite close to Central. The programme began with a Bach concerto featuring Colin Maier and Sharon Lee, followed by Mozart's Divertimento in F Major, and Mozart's Symphony 29. I'm excited to see how this ensemble expands over time, and I am forever grateful for the musicians who donated their time and talent for the January 14th event.

The Sound Linc concert was the third in our Matinee Recital Series. I am happy to report that the Music@Central series now has a website! This was in large part to us receiving a Ward 2 Community Grant in Fall of 2023, which budgeted for the creation of the site. This will be invaluable in promoting upcoming events, and will eventually house more media and content, ie. videos and pictures from past concerts, as well as artist bios and info for upcoming events. I am already in discussions with various groups in planning the 2024-2025 season. The M@C website is here: [www.musicatcentral.ca](http://www.musicatcentral.ca)

One final highlight to share in this issue: January of 2024 has marked the 1-year anniversary of my position as Director of Music Ministries at Central Presbyterian Church. I am both honoured and humbled to have this role, and thank everyone at Central for your support and encouragement in all our musical endeavours. Onwards to more music in 2024!

Upcoming: mark your calendars now for Sunday March 3rd at 3:00pm where Central plays host to the internationally renowned Quartetto Gelato! This will be a highly exciting and entertaining concert, see you there!



Musically yours,  
Marcus Scholtes, Director of Music Ministries



**MUSIC @CENTRAL**  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Chamber Music Spring 2024**

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:00 p.m. **Quartetto Gelato**
- April 21, 3:00 p.m. **Charlton String Quartet**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. **Songs My Mother Taught Me**









**MUSIC @CENTRAL**  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## **QUARTETTO GELATO**

***Sunday March 3 - 3:00pm***

***General Admission by Donation***

***Pay What You Can***

***Suggested Donation \$20***

***Eventbrite link:***



***Central Presbyterian Church, 165 Charlton Ave. W Hamilton***

## Mission Committee Update

February 2024

Monday, November 6, 2023, 7 p.m. at Eva Rothwell Centre in the Inner City Outreach Ministries space, there was an award night celebrating 35<sup>th</sup> year of ICOM and recognizing the volunteers who have supported their ministry. Two Mission members, Karen Finch and Shirley Fredlander, attended the evening and received a plaque on behalf of Central. On Sunday Nov.19, 2023 Gloria Gavin acknowledged the plaque and shared a few memories of Central's involvement with ICOM in the last 35 plus years. The plaque will be hung in the Narthex of Central's front entrance.

On November 30, 2023 we provided a Christmas dinner for the Inner City Outreach Ministries Moms to Moms and children. We had a full course dinner, turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, relish tray with pickles and cheese, cranberry sauce, rolls and a cake for dessert. We sat and ate with the moms. An evening enjoyed by all. Gifts were supplied by ICOM for the moms and children. We made a small gift for the moms, a toothbrush and paste wrapped with a home-made dish cloth and for the children a tooth brush and paste, a candy cane, small chocolate bar in a Christmas cellophane bag. To our surprise, The Mission Committee members each received a lap throw from the moms.

White Gift Saturday drive through Dec.2, 2023 was a very cold wet day. We repeated the drive through to reach out to those folks not able to attend the Sunday service but would still like to participate. We had approximately 5 cars come through. We will reassess for the future.

White Gift Sunday in house was Dec.3, 2023. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, it was a great success. The total of all donations was \$3870.00. The children collected the donations during the service.

The time has come for me, Gloria, to step down from the Mission Committee as chair. I would like to thank all the wonderful folks I have had the privilege of working with over the years. What a great experience and adventure. **Thank-you, to all the TEAM members!!!**

Adele Pierre and Beth Carey will be co-chairing the Mission Committee. I wish you well and pray for your on-going mission adventures. Thank you for stepping up.

If anyone is interested in joining the Mission committee, please contact Adele or Beth through Helena Bootsma, Central's Office Administrator 905-522-9098 ext.0

Respectfully submitted: Gloria Gavin, chair



## Resource Management Committee Report

As I write this, we are preparing for the Annual General Meeting on February 25, 2024. The budget has been prepared and vetted by RMC and Session. It is ready to go to the congregation. The last fiscal year has been closed. Thanks to the support of the Trustees, we finished the year with a small deficit. We will be dependent upon the Trustees in the year ahead as well. This support has limits and we are fast approaching them.

Thanks go to the Resource Management Committee, who have been faithful in attending meetings and tackling the issues of the business of Central. Jim Morgan is our chair; Bill Guise is the treasurer, and both have provided leadership as we work on the business affairs of Central. Mary Guise is the secretary and rental coordinator, Gregg Bullock-Price is the property manager and keeps the church building maintained as well as working with Richard Plante, the custodian. James Beloshesky and Frances Searle are experienced in the church and building, and they provide direction to us.

Thanks to all for the hard work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Guise



Gregg Bullock-Price,  
RMC Property Manager



## Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

I am slowly getting to know the congregation and their needs. We are open to suggestions for programs and activities that would help members on their faith journey.

The Prime Time group has continued to meet on the first Wednesday of the month via Zoom. We decided to restart an in-person gathering. It is the Second Wednesday of the month in the Guild room from 10:30 A.M. -12:00. We gather for coffee, treats and with a planned program. We are calling it the Wednesday Fellowship. We welcomed Det/Cst. Phil Poirier and Cst. A Lalla of the Crimes Against Seniors Unit who spoke to the group about Scams. The group enjoyed the presentation. We are planning to have the Alzheimer's Association come and speak. If any of you have any suggestions for speakers or events please feel free to contact me.

We met with a group of people who were caregivers to support them. While a formal group was not needed, we are staying in contact with them. I have begun to put together a Pastoral Care Team. They have taken on some of the visiting. We are also considering a Grief Support Group if people are interested.

But it is important to remember that Love is the primary motivation for the ministry of caring, and Jesus is our example and teacher. In Matthew 25:34-40, He tells us that whatever we do to minister to others in need we do for Him!

We all are part of the care team and are representatives of Jesus Christ. We are there to show that as Christians we really do care for one another, and we do love our neighbour. We are there to show this person that we want to care for, connect with, and have a relationship with them. We will show them that they can trust us and that they can trust our Lord.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
John 13:34



Rev. Lois Whitwell,  
Director of Pastoral Care

*Rental Invitation*

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OUR BUILDING  
WITH OUR COMMUNITY, AND WOULD ENJOY  
WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.**

VARIOUS ROOMS, THE HALL AND THE SANCTUARY ARE  
AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, FAMILY  
EVENTS, CORPORATE MEETINGS, CONCERTS, OFFICES  
AND NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERINGS.

Contact Helena for rates and availability.

MORE INFO: [HTTPS://WWW.CPCHAMILTON.CA/HALL-RENTALS/](https://www.cpchamilton.ca/hall-rentals/)

Helena Bootsma  
Office Administrator  
Central Presbyterian Church  
165 Charlton Ave. W. Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8  
T: 905-522-9098 ext. 0  
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[cpchamilton.ca](http://cpchamilton.ca)



## Fellowship Team Update

To begin, a heartfelt thank you goes to Mary and Bill Guise who worked tirelessly to ensure that our coffee hour and other events were well supplied with goodies and all the necessities needed.

In September, that role was taken over by Kristel Forcier and Beth Mackay Reilly as co-leaders of the Fellowship Team, who are presently covering the responsibilities of the team, with much appreciated assistance from others, particularly Pam Carpenter, Johanna de Bruin, Gloria Gavin, Gwynneth Simpson, and Jean Williams.

Offering hospitality to our congregation remains an important part of providing fellowship with one another. We continue to provide cookies and beverages for coffee hour following the Service. It's always special to enjoy cake occasionally, and we did so when we welcomed our new members and in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of our minister, Nick and his wife, Betty. Goodies were also provided for the members of Presbytery when they met here in October. In December, after a long absence, the Cookie Walk was revived and was received joyfully by everyone. The donations raised – slightly more than \$500 - were shared equally by our church and Hamilton Out of the Cold.

**The Knit and Knatter** group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings, under the leadership of Jean Williams. While lots of knitted and crocheted items are produced, the “knattering” remains an important part of the morning!

Central's **Book Club** meets throughout the year to discuss books that are suggested and presented by the members. A wide variety of topics are covered, and the discussion is insightful and thought provoking. This group is coordinated by Larry Kurtz.

In looking to the future, we are working to provide more fellowship opportunities for our congregation, and began with re-instating the Pancake Brunch. Our team is very small at the moment – if you would be interested in assisting with fellowship events, please speak to Kristel or Beth.

Kristel Forcier and Beth Mackay Reilly  
Fellowship Team Co-Leaders



Knit and Knatter Christmas Luncheon



**Cookie Walk**  
December 2023





## Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship



*Though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us.* - Romans 12:5-6a (CEB)



Cathy Slattery, Central's Nursery Coordinator cares for and nurtures faith in our young ones

Central's Faith Finders are an incredible group of young people, who are just only learning, but also sharing their love with our community. The youngest in our church are being nurtured in the nursery program with Cathy Slattery's caring guidance.

Some memorable highlights from the past season: Christmas Pageant led by the young people with the nursery children singing Away in a Manger; The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe Movie Night, Youth Nights (with dinner made by the youth!), devotions, basketball and games in the gym; Candlelight Service Youth Choir; HOOTC Sock Project; and all the inspiring conversation on Sunday mornings in our children's programs.

Thank you to the leaders and volunteers for their dedication to the children and youth in our church!



Sara Traficante  
Coordinator of Discipleship

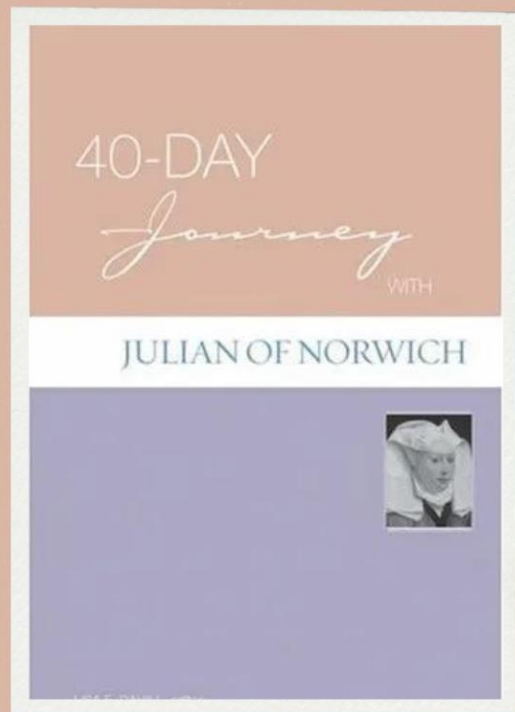
### LENT 2024 STUDY

All are invited to join the Presbyterians Read 2024 devotional study "40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich".

Join Sara Traficante to meet and discuss on our lenten journey.  
Sunday, March 3 and 17,  
9:00 - 10:00 am. at Central.

Contact the office to register and purchase the book.

More information here:  
<https://www.cpchamilton.ca/lenen-book-study/>







## Central's Youth in Action









# The Knitting Pilgrim

featuring the **Stitched Glass** tapestries

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 @ 7:30 pm**

**“15 years of knitting. 90 pounds of yarn.”**

A one-man play & talkback about the real-life artistic and spiritual journey of **Kirk Dunn**, who took 15 years to knit a triptych of tapestries, designed in the style of stained glass windows, exploring the commonalities and conflicts of the Abrahamic faiths. There is no other project like it in the world.



**Central Presbyterian Church,**

165 Charlton Ave. West (at Caroline) Hamilton, ON

Free will offering with a suggested donation of \$10.00

For further information: [cpchamilton.ca](http://cpchamilton.ca)

**To support:**

Central Presbyterian Church ministries &  
Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre (PCHC)



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada





## Hamilton Out of the Cold

It seems early to say this, but we are planning the last 2 months of service to our HOOTC guests. It has been a challenging season as we provide more than 200 hot meals each week. Sometimes as many as 240 meals are handed out. The kitchen has been humming and Thursday at the church smells great!

The HOOTC café on Mondays has had a steady attendance of between 20 and 30 guests who come in, sit down, and socialize. This is the venue used to give out the clothing and toiletries that have been collected for guests.

We thank our hardworking teams without whom we could not function. The HOOTC office provides valuable support for all our efforts. Fundraising has been very successful this year and we have received some healthy donations which will ensure the program continues.

Submitted by  
Mary Guise, Site Co-coordinator



Striving to Eliminate  
Hunger  
in Our Community.



"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

I wish to express my gratefulness for your support last fall throughout the illness and death of my father. I am thankful for our staff and volunteers who took on additional responsibilities in order that I could work remotely and have some time off to be with family. Many of you extended condolences to me in various ways – thank you!

It is a blessing to be part of the Central community!

Helena Bootsma, Office Administrator



## Save the Date

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
*Lunch and AGM (after worship)*

Sundays, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.  
*Lent Study in Central's Allan Room*

Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 p.m.  
*Music @ Central:  
Quartetto Gelato*

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.  
*Prime Time online*

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.  
*Palm Sunday*

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
*Central's Book Club*

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
*Maudy Thursday Service*

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p.m.  
*Good Friday Choir Concert*

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m.  
*Easter Sunday – Christ is Risen*

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
*The Knitting Pilgrim*

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Spring Rummage Sale*

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.  
*Music @ Central:  
Songs My Mother Taught Me*

## Deaths

Brenda Newman  
January 16, 2024

Barbara McWilliams  
January 17, 2024



## **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.**



### **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*

*Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson*

*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*

*Nursery Coordinator – Cathy Slattery*

*Custodian – Richard Plante*

*Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

### **CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**165 Charlton Avenue West,**

**Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8**

**Telephone: 905-522-9098**

**Email: [info@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca)**

**Website: [www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)**







## Holy Week

### **March 24, 10:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Service of Worship**

For many, the procession of the palms re-enacted by children of our church schools is a vivid and lasting memory of this day. But once you know the whole story of this week, it is hard to see Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem except as set against his passion—betrayal, humiliation and death.

Since about the fourth century, the joy of Christ's triumphal entry has been set in deliberate contrast to the passion narrative. This, the first Sunday in Holy Week, begins the seven days of redemption drama.



### **March 28, 7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion**

Maundy Thursday, Maundy from the Latin *Mandatum*, meaning commandment. Jesus said, *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*' (John 13: 34-35).

This night is a time to remember Jesus' vision of beloved community—to feed and be fed, to love and be loved. This night, we remember the events of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

### **March 29, 7:00 P.M. Concert Featuring Howard Goodall's "Eternal Light" Requiem**

Concert presented by the Central Presbyterian Choir and Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Marcus Scholtes. Freewill offering at the door.

On this, a most faithful and a most fateful day in the long history of God's people, we reach the climax in the unfolding drama of the life and ministry of Jesus.



### **March 31, 10:30 A.M. Service of Worship**

*The Hamilton Brass Quintet*  
We celebrate the resurrection!

Early on that morning, the first witnesses tell us: their alarm subsided, their courage deepened, their trauma healed, and their amazement grew.

They learned how to choose hope.

HOWARD GOODALL

# ETERNAL LIGHT

A REQUIEM

GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT  
MARCH 29, 2024  
7:00PM

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

165 CHARLTON AVE.  
WEST  
HAMILTON, ON

FREE ADMISSION/ DONATIONS WELCOME

