



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

March 30, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent and Intergenerational Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier

Call to Worship – Chidinma, Kene and Risa

Opening Prayer – Neto

Lector - Jim Evel

Readers:

- Jesus - Abi
- James - Caspian
- Peter - Sam
- Matthew - Gregoire
- Readers: Kelvin, Ramona, Rachel, Juniper, Kene, Risa
- Little Children: Jack, Fisher, Miriam, Fred, Flora

Greeters – Jean Williams & Gloria Gavin

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

Staffed Nursery is available for our young ones up to age 4 throughout the entire service.

** Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *I Love To Tell The Story*

L. A. Warriner

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *The Love of God Comes Close*

474 vs. 1 and 2

The love of God comes close where stands an open door,
to let the stranger in, to mingle rich and poor.

The love of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk the Way;
the love of God is here to stay.

The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease to ease the lives forlorn.

The peace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk the Way;
the peace of God is here to stay.

* HYMN – This Is The Day

1. This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.

2. Open to us, open to us
the gates of God,
the gates of God;
we will go in, we will go in
and praise the Lord, and praise the Lord.
Open to us the gates of God;
we will go in and praise the Lord.
Open to us, open to us
the gates of God.

3. You are our God, you are our God;
we will praise your name,
we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God; we will praise your name;
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God;
we will praise your name.

OPENING PRAYER

Christ Jesus,
we come into your presence
from many different places.
We come with songs of joy
and shouts of gratitude.
We come carrying heavy burdens
and sighs of suffering.
As you welcome us into your house,
lift our burdens
and receive our praise.
Salt us with your grace
and flavor us with your mercy.
Bind us together,
that we may be at peace with one another
and be strengthened to go forth
in service to the world.
In your holy name, we pray. AMEN.

(inspired by James 5, Mark 9)
~ Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship
Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press.
Posted on the **Ministry Matters**
website.
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

THE PEACE: May the peace of Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN – This Is My Father’s World

328

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings,
and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought;
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas God's hands the wonders wrought.

This is my Maker's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Maker's world; God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass, God's footsteps pass; God speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Saviour's world; oh let me not forget that though the
wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Saviour's world; the battle is not done;
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 44 , 46)

Mark 9: 33-37 & Mark 10: 13-16

Who Is the Greatest?

Mark 9: 33-37

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

Jesus Blesses Little Children

Mark 10: 13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

DRAMA: *The Friend of Little Children*

ANTHEM: *The Butterfly Song*

*If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee.
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.*

Refrain: *

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me me.*

*If I were an elephant, I'd thank you, Lord, by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you.
And if I were an octopus, I'd thank you, Lord, for my fine looks.
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me. **Refrain***

* Congregation is encouraged to join in and sing the last **Refrain**

REFLECTION "*Every Child Matters*"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN - Jesus Love Me

373

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so,
little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. **Refrain**

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." **Refrain**

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. **Refrain**

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Jesu Lord! Who Through My Infant Days*

- J. Dowland, Words by D. Goodchild

*Jesu Lord! Who through my infant days Hast watched and guarded me In all my childish ways;
My work, my play, my fears, my griefs, my joys were sent from Thee, my tender soul to form.*

*Jesu Lord! My lot it is to choose, When grown to one's estate, My soul to gain or lose.
Be Thou my help, my strength, my guide, to want the right, the wrong to set aside.*

*Jesu Lord! Control my wayward heart, And grant that at mine end, Though dies my mortal part,
My faith, my thoughts, my words, my deeds, my prayers, Have led my soul to immortality.*

* 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 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
forever. Amen**

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN - All Things Bright And Beautiful

435

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours; God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them, every one. *Refrain*

The rocky mountain splendour, the haunting curlew's call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forests in the fall, *Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty who has made all things well. *Refrain*

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Canto / God The Almighty*

G. Davidson

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!

Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

Central Presbyterian Church
God's Love Includes Everyone



**Let the children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that
the kingdom of God belongs.**

Mark 10:14b



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/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/

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).

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the 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.

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Sunday, March 30, 10:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Lent - Intergenerational Service of Worship
~ Monday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. – Noon	HOOTC Café (final Café for the 2024-25 Season)
~ Monday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.	Search Committee Meeting (Allan Room)
~ Tuesday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. – Noon	Knit & Knatter Group (Guild Room)
~ Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.	Session Meeting (Allan Room)
~ Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
~ Friday, April 4, 5:30 p.m.	Youth Night
~ Sunday, April 6, 3:00 p.m.	Music@Central: Enchanted Flutes
~ Sunday, April 13, 10:30 p.m.	Palm/Passion Sunday Service of Worship
~ Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion
~ Friday, April 18 10:30 a.m.	Good Friday Service of Worship and Reflection
~ Friday, April 18 7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Choir Concert: Mozart Requiem
~ Sunday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service of Worship
~ Sunday, April 27	Dr. Nick's Retirement Service and Lunch
~ Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.	Central Book Club (Allan Room)

Good Friday Service of Worship and Reflection: 6-8 readers are requested to participate in the Good Friday Worship Service on April 18th. Please speak with Rev. Lois if you are available (or contact Helena in the office helena@cpchamilton.ca).

Lector Scripture Reading Schedule Dates for May - July: If you are interested in reading Scripture in upcoming Sunday Worship Services, please email the office your availability, or mention your interest to any staff person on Sundays.

Lent 2025: Join Kate Bowler this lent season: THE HARDEST PART

Life is this strange, tender mix, isn't it? Joy and sorrow, love and loss, heartbreak and hope, all tangled together. This year, embrace Lent as it is – raw, honest, and tender. Let these 40 days be a time to pause, reflect, and find the courage to stay with the hard part, trusting that the good part is still coming. katebowler.com/lent

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, to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca or send a cheque.

Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

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 Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*



In normal life, one is not at all aware that we always receive infinitely more than we give and that gratitude is what enriches life. One easily overestimates the importance of one's own acts and deeds, compared with what we become only through other people.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

A/C Appeal



We need A/C units in the nursery, two offices and a meeting room on the main floor.

This is because we have reconfigured our space to welcome new tenants. The income we now receive enables us to offer sacred space for worship, a safe gathering place for the community, and of course, concert space for Music@Central, along with music space for choirs and concerts in the city of Hamilton.

You are welcome to make your donation online, by cheque, or even in the offering plate marked **A/C appeal**. Donations of **\$16,159.55** have been received towards the A/C appeal. We will keep you updated as we progress toward our goal of **\$50,000!**

Status of the search for our new minister:

We have now entered an important phase of the search process as the Search Committee considers potential candidates for our new minister. Please pray for the members of the committee - that they might be wise and discerning as God's Holy Spirit leads them to that special person God has in mind to lead the congregation into the future.

During the search process, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson (our Interim Moderator) either in-person at coffee time following Sunday services; by phone at 905-574-4383; or by email at revpmw@outlook.com.

Please continue to pray along with the Search Committee during the search process.

Wise and Loving God,

You know all things good for us, and your Holy Spirit leads us in your way. Guide us to the minister that you have prepared to come and serve your people here at Central. Fill us with vision, with energy, and openness as we seek the person you've chosen for us.

We thank you for all those in our midst that you move to lead, contribute to, or enrich the ministries at Central. We thank you for the plans you have for our church community - both known and unknown to us.

Throughout this season of uncertainty and change, give us mutual love for each other, patience in the work that lies ahead, and wisdom to discern. Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit here to move in us and through us, so that we may hear the voice of the person best suited for Central.

Prepare us to receive our new minister with joy and enthusiasm - and may our new minister serve us with equal joy. May their ministry mark a new chapter in Central's story: a chapter of continued vibrancy, of growth, and of renewal in service of the Triune God. Amen

The Search Committee prayer can be found on our website: [Search Committee Prayer - CPC Hamilton](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/search-committee-prayer/) : www.cpchamilton.ca/search-committee-prayer/

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/>



Holy Week

April 13, 10:30 A.M. Palm/Passion 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.

April 17, 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

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



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.

April 18 10:30 A.M. Good Friday Service of Worship and Reflection

7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Choir Concert: Central Choir and soloists perform the beloved and passionate Requiem by W. A. Mozart.



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.

April 20, 10:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Service of Worship

We celebrate the resurrection!

Featuring The Hamilton Brass Quintet

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.



Word of the day

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs (Mark 10: 13-14).



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

Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier

Bookkeeper – Michelle Fربول

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Custodian – David Lewington

Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

Telephone: 905-522-9098

Email: info@cpchamilton.ca

www.cpchamilton.ca

Central's Copyright license: © CCLI #2886178