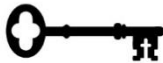




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

May 25, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service of Worship

Minister – Rev. Lois Whitwell

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Lector – Shirley Fredlander

Greeters – Gloria Gavin & Alex Prince

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Fantasia in Db Major*

J. Rheinberger

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *King of Kings*

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King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The hour has come to worship our God:

People: to gather together as people of faith, to glorify the God of all grace.

The time has come to devote ourselves to prayer:

to bring the burdens we carry, to lift our hopes to the God who hears us.

The hour has come to rejoice and make God's name known:

to lift a song of thanksgiving, to praise God for all our blessings

Let us worship God.

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Hallelujah!
to the throne in paradise; Hallelujah!
Christ the Lamb for sinners given, Hallelujah!
enters now the highest heaven. Hallelujah!

2. Christ, for you high triumph waits, Hallelujah!
lift your heads, eternal gates; Hallelujah!
you have conquered death and sin: Hallelujah!
enter, Sovereign, enter in. Hallelujah!

3. See the nail marked hands above, Hallelujah!
signs of God's redeeming love; Hallelujah!
hark, Christ's words our hearts assure, Hallelujah!
"I will send a Comforter!" Hallelujah!

4. Christ, for us still intercede; Hallelujah!
by your suffering for us plead; Hallelujah!
near yourself prepare a place, Hallelujah!
as the first fruits of God's grace. Hallelujah!

5. Now, though parted from our sight, Hallelujah!
in the depths of starry night, Hallelujah!
may God raise us up again, Hallelujah!
heirs of your eternal reign. Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFRESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.5.1 Jesus suffered, died, and was buried,
but God raised him from the dead.
Risen and ascended,
he is alive now, the living Lord.

**3.5.2 His resurrection means that our faith is not empty,
that final victory is assured over all evil powers
which destroy and deform life,
and that death, the last enemy, is conquered.**

3.5.3 The forces of the evil one still wage war against us.
The destructive powers are still present.
But their end is not in doubt.
We await the full revelation of our Lord's triumph.

**3.5.4 We worship our ascended Lord.
Reigning in glory and power
he is our High Priest and Advocate
interceding before the Father on our behalf.
Through him we offer our sacrifice of praise,
with prayer for all to the Father.**

3.5.5 Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord!

* HYMN – The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns

270

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow. | 4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven. |
| 2. The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light; | 5. They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love. |
| 3. the joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know. | 6. The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him,
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme. |

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 93 in the Red Book of Psalms, **Refrain 1**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Following the Time with the Children, a program for children SK – Grade 8 will be available in the downstairs HUB area. 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 READINGS:

Acts 1:1-14 (p. 118)

Luke 24:44-53 (p. 91)

SERMON: *What next?*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN – Come To Us, Beloved Stranger

262 (see pgs. 7-8)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Comfort, O Lord*

W. Crotch

Comfort, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee do I lift up my soul.

Comfort the soul, the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee do I lift up my soul.

* **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 AND LORD'S PRAYER

When Leader prays: God of Mercy

Congregational Response: Hear our Prayer

**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 – Christ, You Call Us All To Service

585 (see pg. 9)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Enter His Courts With Praise*

A. Mason

If you're new here, we rejoice that you've been led to "make a joyful noise to the Lord" with us today. Together, we are God's people. You need to know upfront though that none of us who gather here are perfect - and we don't always get it right, but we're doing our best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. You're welcome to join us: there's a place for you here.

May 25, 2025 is **Healing and Reconciliation Sunday**, and was designated by the 2006 General Assembly, recognizing the need for healing and relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

This recognition comes with the difficult but necessary acknowledgment that The Presbyterian Church in Canada has been complicit in colonial racism, especially through the church's participation in the residential school system – which was intended as a tool of assimilation and took generations of Indigenous children from their homes and families. The intergenerational trauma the schools created continues to cause significant harm to Indigenous people today. This is irreconcilable with Jesus' call to love our neighbour; we work for reconciliation because the church is called to do so as disciples of Christ. The church has committed itself to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation, and to continuing to respond to the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls and Women.

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/>

Easter

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Come to us, beloved Stranger

BEACH SPRING 8 7 8 7 D

Unison

F Gm/F F Gm/F F/E Bb/D Bbmaj7 C

1. Come to us, be - lov - ed Stran - ger, as you came that
 2. Stay with us and give us bless - ing, that our hopes a -
 3. We would nev - er fail to see you as you walk with

Bb Gm7 F C7/E F /A Bb6 Dmsus4-3

East - er day, Walk with us to our Em - ma - us,
 gain may rise. Of - fer us your bro - ken bo - dy;
 us each day. As a friend and not a stran - ger

Gm7 Am7 Bb 6 F (Dm) C7 F/C Bb C

for we need you still to - day. Come to us when we are
 o - pen our un - see - ing eyes. Come to us, God's love em -
 you would join us on our way. Help us trust that through your

See also: Beach Spring 188 262

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879) from Sacred Harp 1844; harmony, James H. Wood

Words: copyright © Edith Sinclair Downing, 1993 Music: harmony, copyright © 1958. Renewed 1986 Broadman Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

F /E Dm Am 7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C Gm6

bro - ken, when our dear - est hopes are lost, speak to
 bod - ied; touch our hearts with burn - ing flame. Ris - en
 mer - cy we can doubt and fear tran - scend, and to

F /E Dm 7 Gm Dm/F Gm7 Am Bb Gm7 F

us the pro-phets' mes - sage you ful - filled up - on the cross.
 Christ, once dead, now liv - ing, come to us through joy, through pain.
 oth - ers be a bless - ing. Keep us faith - ful till life's end!

Christ, you call us all to service

IN BABILONE 8 7 8 7 D

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

1. Christ, you call us all to ser-vice, call us all who fol - low you;
 2. Teach us how to work to - geth-er, bro-ther, sis-ter, side by side,
 3. Let us be a serv-ant peo-ple, re - con - cil-ing, end - ing strife,

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

plant in us a deep com - mit-ment all your work and will to do.
 e - qual part-ners in the strug-gle, in the cause of truth al - lied.
 seek-ing ways more just of shar-ing and of or-ordering hu - man life.

Em Dm6 C Bm/D Am/E E Am D /C G/B Em D/F# G A7 D

Fire a pas-sion for your jus-tice; in us kin-dle love of peace;
 To each one some gift is giv-en- man or wo-man, young or old;
 Fill us with a glow-ing vi-sion of this world as it should be;

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

help us heal the bro - ken-heart-ed; to the cap-tive bring re - lease.
 help us use each skill and tal - ent, your great pur - pose to un - fold.
 send us forth to change that vi - sion in - to blest re - a - li - ty.

Words: Joy F. Patterson (1931-) Music: Dutch melody; arrangement, Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

Words: copyright © 1994 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: arrangement, copyright © F. E. Röntgen, 1979

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Sunday, May 25, 10:30 a.m. **Service of Worship**
- ~ Tuesday, May 27, 10:00 a.m.–Noon **Knit & Knatter Group (Guild Room)**
- ~ Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m. **Central Book Club (Allan Room)**
- ~ Thursday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**
- ~ Sunday, June 1, 7:30 p.m. **Presbyterian Church of Canada**
- General Assembly Opening Worship Service
hosted at Central**

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/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/

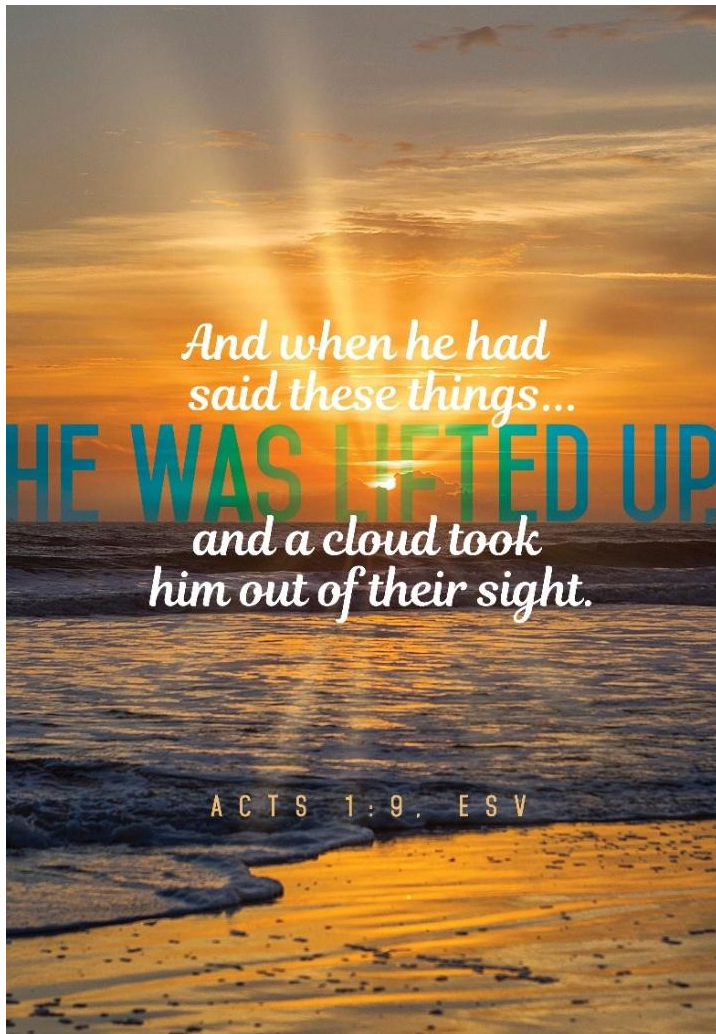
Congregational Givings

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.



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.

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/


***As you leave this place today,
you're reminded that no matter who you are,
or what your past may be,
you are a beloved child of the Living God.***

***As you now live your life from day to day,
don't forget who – and whose, you are;
so that you may indeed be light and salt to this world
in the name of Jesus the Christ.***

Stewardship Moment

**Praise and gratitude are
central to our efforts to
speak the truth.**

-John Buchanan (Retired Presbyterian minister
& the former editor & publisher of the
Christian Century)

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

*Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier
Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

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