



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

November 30, 2025 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent Communion Worship Service

Minister - Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Director of Music Ministries - Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath Lighting - Weresch Family

Lector - Judy Johnson

Greeters - Alex Prince & Cathy Keith

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this Morning!

* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *And There Was A Star*

D. Paxton

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *People in Darkness* #124 vs. 2

People with sickness are praying for health. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth. Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of hope.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: In the beginning, when darkness covered the deep,
God said, "Let there be light,"
and light drew near.

Reader 2: As winter nights lengthen and the world feels uncertain,
we come again to this small, brave act:
we light a candle and dare to call it *hope*.

Candle is lit

Reader 1: Hope that flickers gently,
Hope that pushes back the shadows,
Hope that whispers, "You are not alone."

Reader 2: As the light grows, may our hearts awaken to God already here.

Congregation: Draw near, God is here.

Reader 1: May this flame guide our waiting and our waking,
And teach us to notice hope shining close at hand.

Congregation: Draw near, God is here.

Reader 2: Let us worship God with gladness!

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

2. Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

3. Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

One: Dear ones of God, this is the good news:
God comes to us to bring the healing of hope,
To put the joy of justice into our hearts.

All: **We need wait no longer.
We will go and tell everyone
What we have seen and heard!
Thanks be to God!
Amen**

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

*Please share a word or sign of the Peace of Christ with those around you as you are comfortable. In doing so, please be mindful of the preference of others in how you offer or receive this sign (smile, handshake, fist bump, nod or elbow tap). **May the peace of Christ be with you!***

GOD SPEAKS TO US

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Following the Time with the Children, children are invited to join our Faith Finders program for children SK – Grade 8 in the downstairs HUB area.

Children will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn.

Children's bulletins and colouring sheets are available on the table in the Narthex entryway.

We offer a staffed nursery throughout the service for our young ones up to age 4.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 27)

SERMON: **Near in the Night**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN – From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe

379

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Mary's Magnificat*

A. Carter

Softly a light is stealing, Sweetly a maiden sings, Ever wakeful, ever wistful.

Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus Softly, serenely sings:

I will love you, I will serve you, May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.

Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

In The Bleak Mid-Winter 145 vs. 4

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

HYMN – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

542

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly mind ed,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful,
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its van guard on the way,
as the Light of Light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes the powers of hell to vanquish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the sixwinged Seraph,
Cheru bim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
'Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high.'

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer continues...

Therefore, with those who have been raised, and those who long for your coming, we join the choirs of angels who forever sing of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer continues...

And so, as we prepare to celebrate his birth - as we journey once again the holy ways, seeking to hear and proclaim his life, death, and resurrection - we whisper of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ was promised.
Christ was born.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Prayer continues...

As Christ taught his disciples we now pray (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**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**Take us out to live as people of hope, transformed by sharing
the living bread and cup of salvation to serve the world you love. Amen.**

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN - Come, Thou Expected Jesus

110

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Carols of the Star*

L. Smith



Prepare the way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN 7 6 7 6 7 6 6

G Em C G/B C Dsus4-3 G G/B C Em Dsus4-3 Gsus4-3

1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on: your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2. He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; Christ comes from heaven a - bove.
 3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - iour's rule em - brace,

G Em C G/B C Dsus4-3 G /B C Em Dsus4-3 Gsus4-3

Let eve - ry hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in eve - ry place.

G Em D/F# G A7sus4-3 D A 7/C# D /F# G6 Em6 D

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain

Am G/B Em Dsus4-3 B/D# Em G/B C6 (Em) D7 Gsus4-3

Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1771/2-1847); alt, Charles P. Price (1920-)

Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken 1697; arrangement, American Lutheran Hymnal 1930

Words: alterations, copyright © Charles P. Price, 1985 Music: public domain

379 From heaven you came, helpless babe

THE SERVANT KING 8 8 7 8 with refrain

Unison

Chords: Cm G/B Abmaj7 Bb/Ab Eb/G

1. From heaven you came, help-less babe, en-tered our world, your
 2. There in the gard-en of tears, my hea- vy load he
 3. Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of
 4. So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives en-

Chords: Ab/C Eb/Bb Bb Cm G/B Abmaj7

glo - ry veiled, not to be served but to serve,
 chose to bear; his heart with sor - row was torn:
 sac - ri - fice, hands that flung stars in - to space
 throne him, each oth - er's needs to pre - fer,

Chords: Bb/Ab Eb/G Ab/C Eb/Bb Bbsus4 - 2

and give your life that we might live.
 "Yet not my will but yours," he said.
 to cru - el nails sur - ren - dered.
 for it is Christ we're serv - ing.

Words: Graham Kendrick (1950-) Music: Graham Kendrick (1950-)

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Refrain (Bb) Eb Bb Cm Cm/Bb

This is our God, the Ser-vant King, he calls us

Ab Bb (Ab/Bb) Eb Bb Eb Eb/Db

now to fol-low him, to bring our lives as a dai-ly of-fer-

Ab/C D Eb /G Bb 1. -3. Eb G7 4. Eb

ing of wor-ship to the Ser-vant King. King.

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.

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.

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



Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Sunday, November 30, 10:30 a.m. **First Sunday of Advent & Communion Worship Service**
- ~ Sunday, November 30 after worship **Christmas Cookie Walk** (Guild Room)
- ~ Sunday, November 30, 3:00 p.m. **Music@Central: Xueao Yang & Felix Hong**
- ~ Sunday, November 30 after worship **Giving Tree Ornaments in support of Gaza crises**
(Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Monday, December 1, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Café** (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.–noon **Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)
- ~ Tuesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**
- ~ Thursday, December 4, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go** (Forecourt)
- ~ Thursday, December 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Central Choir Rehearsal**
- ~ Friday, December 5, 5:00-7:30 p.m. **“Waiting in Wonder: Advent for All Ages”**
- ~ Sunday, December 7, 10:30 a.m. **Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service**
- ~ Sunday, December 7, 2:30 p.m. **Service of Induction for Rev. Hannah Lovaglio**
- ~ Tuesday, December 9, 11:30 a.m. **Knit & Knatter Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch** (Guild Room)
- ~ Saturday, December 13, 12:00-3:00 p.m. **Durand Christmas Market** (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Sunday, December 14, 10:30 a.m. **Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service
& White Gift Sunday**
- ~ Sunday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Carol Service**
- ~ Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. **Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
& Children’s Christmas Pageant**
- ~ Sunday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service**

The Knit & Knatter Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch is scheduled for December 9, 2025 in the Guild Room. Please speak with Jean Williams if you have any questions (905-388-5453).

Volunteer Bakers: Please contact Abbie Boyko if you are willing to donate bake goods for the Durand Christmas Market Tea Room on December 13th. (905-547-4656 aboyko130@gmail.com).

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/>

For the First Sunday in Advent,
by Rev. Thom M. Shuman

*For you yourselves know very well that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief
in the night. -1 Thessalonians 5:2*

**You bypass
every security code
we devise
(even encrypted)
to open our hearts
and tiptoe in.**

**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.**

The Mission Committee of Central has identified two areas of need that you are invited to donate to this Advent season.



PWS&D is responding to the crisis in Gaza, with our ecumenical networks and partnerships at ACT, Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food and other humanitarian assistance where and whenever possible.

Donations may be given through PCC's "Giving Tree Ornaments." **The ornaments will be sold, through donation, at fellowship time beginning on November 23rd** and at the Durand Christmas Market for those who wish to contribute to the PWS&D's Gaza Response. [Support PWS&D's Gaza Response - Presbyterian World Service & Development](#)

White Gift Sunday- December 14th



Central will again be sharing our gifts with Giving Hearts of Hamilton

on White Gift Sunday. The needs for those who are unhoused continue to be great. A full list of items will be shared. Grocery store, Canadian Tire and Tim Hortons gift cards are always appreciated. Hats, mittens, warm socks, coats, camping gear, blankets, tarps are needed as well.

Minister – The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
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 Frebald
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

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