



O come let us adore Him



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON
165 Charlton Ave. W. Hamiton, ON

December 24, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Communion Prayer and Lector – Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Advent Wreath lighting – The Traficante-Starkey Family
Lector – Dr. Hubert DeBruin

A Warm Welcome to all!

*All the streets are filled with laughter and light,
and the music of the season.
And the merchants' windows are all bright
with the faces of the children.
And the families hurrying to their homes,
as the sky darkens and freezes,
will be gathering around their hearths and tables
giving thanks for God's graces
And the birth of the rebel Jesus.*

*- From *The Rebel Jesus* by The Chieftains & Jackson Browne*

** Indicates standing, as you are able.*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE *Christmas Medley – Trad.*

INTROIT - *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

146 v. 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.
Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

Reader Two: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

Candles of hope, peace, love and joy are lit, followed by the Christ Candle

Reader One: Not an idea. Not a distant promise.
But a person — God-with-us.

Reader Two: Christ draws near —
in a newborn cry, swaddled and held close,
in love come down at last.

Congregation: Draw near, God is here.

Reader One: As this light spreads, may it find every shadowed corner —
in our homes, in our city, in our hearts —
and make of us a people who carry Christ's peace.

Congregation: Draw near, God is here.

Reader Two: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.
Come, let us worship.

* CAROL - Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

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**1. Oh come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels:**

*Refrain: Oh come, let us adore him;
Oh come, let us adore him;
Oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created (Refrain)**

**3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh
with holy fear; we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps: (Refrain)**

**4. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest!' (Refrain)**

**5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)**

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

* CAROL – The First Nowell

136

**1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)**

**3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to search for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)**

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We begin with such great hopes, such big dreams:
We are going to be better;
We are going to treat others more fairly,
Love more deeply.
But we come to the manger once again,
Knowing our failings
And aware of our brokenness.

Let us confess to the One who comes,
So that our lives might be made new.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**God who comes to us, forgive us
When our shadowed lives dim your light;
When the tinsel of Christmas means more to us
Than your truth;
When our hearts of stone
Resist the pain and brokenness around us;
When we care more about what is under the tree
Than the damage we do to your creation
And to your children.**

**Have mercy on us, healing God,
So we might tear down the walls we have built
To keep your love away
And seek your justice for our sisters, brothers, and kinfolk.
So our hearts become candles for your son,
Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

Silence is kept for contemplation

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

(based on Isaiah 62:10-12)

Go, go through the city, preparing for the people;
Repair, repair all the roads, filling in the holes,
Raising a banner for all to see.
God has spoken to all people,
Saying to sons and daughters:
"See, your Saviour comes:
To make good on my promises,
To bring redemption to all people"

**And we will be called God's beloved,
The redeemed of the Lord.
God will seek us out to live in the new kingdom,
Where no one is left behind.
Amen**

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sings;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 638)

Isaiah 9:2-7

GOSPEL READING (p. 58)

Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: When God Is a Child

* CAROL – What Child Is This

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1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERING – *See, Amid The Winter's Snow*

J. Goss

*See, amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years!*

*Refrain: Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, Redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'!*

*Lo! Within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the Cherubim. (Refrain)*

*'As we watched at dead of night, Lo! we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing "Peace on earth", Told us of the Saviour's birth.' (Refrain)*

*Teach, oh teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee, In thy sweet humility! (Refrain)*

* 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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

* CAROL – O Little Town of Bethlehem

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- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**
- 3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S 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,
For ever and ever. Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

RECEIVING BREAD & WINE

(De-alcoholised wine, gluten free option available.)

(Please come forward down the centre aisle when the usher arrives at your pew and back along the sides.)



COMMUNION MUSIC - *The Snow Lay On The Ground*

Katie Weresch, soloist

*The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.*

Refrain: Venite adoremus Dominum.

*T'was gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. (Refrain)*

GOD SENDS US

* CLOSING RESPONSES

God with us,
Light our way.

Christ among us,
Light our way.

Spirit within us,
Light our way.

* HYMN - Silent Night! Holy Night!

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(Please turn your candle on by twisting the base to the right.)

**Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!"**

**Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Joy of Christmas Medley*

L. Smith

Welcome to Central this Christmas Eve!

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 and keep you tonight and always.

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 let Helena know (helena@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098).

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 x33 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.

In Memoriam Worship Service:

Central remembers those who have passed away this past year whether within our congregation or friends. We are continuing this tradition on January 4th as part of our regular worship service. 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.

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.

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



Income Tax Receipts: To have your offering included for 2025 income tax purposes, it must be received at the Church or postmarked, *no later than Wednesday, 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 2025 income tax receipts.

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/>

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service**
- ~ **Paused:** Thursday, December 25 & January 1 **H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go**
- ~ Sunday, December 28, 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Worship Service**
- ~ Monday, December 29, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Café** (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Worship Service**
- ~ Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. **Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)
- ~ Thursday, January 8, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go** (Forecourt)
- ~ Thursday, January 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Central Choir Rehearsal**
- ~ Sunday, January 25, 3:00 p.m. **Music@Central: Jonathan Oldengarm & Charlton String Quartet**
- ~ Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m. **Central Book Club** (Allan Room)

Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*

They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



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/



Minister – The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
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
T: 905-522-9098 E: info@cpchamilton.ca
www.cpchamilton.ca
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***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.***