



---

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](http://cpchamilton.ca)  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON



December 14, 2025 10:30 a.m.

**The Third Sunday of Advent and Baptism Worship Service  
White Gift Sunday**

**Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes  
Advent Wreath Lighting – The Forcier Family  
Lector – Dr. Marilyn Craven  
Greeters – Jean Williams & Gloria Gavin**

**A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this Morning!**

*\* Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *In A Manger Bed*

E. Broughton

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *People in Darkness* #124 vs. 4

*People in sadness are trying to sing. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.*

*Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring. Come, Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: In the beginning, when the world was still taking shape,  
God delighted in creation  
and called it good.

Reader 2: As winter deepens and weariness grows familiar,  
we come again to this small, bright act:  
we light a candle and dare to call it joy.

*Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy are lit.*

Reader 1: Joy that arrives quietly,  
Joy that refuses to be pushed aside,  
Joy that shimmers even in sorrow.

Reader 2: As this light grows, may our hearts rest in God's delight.

**Congregation: Draw near, God is here.**

Reader 1: May this flame teach us to receive joy wherever it flickers –  
in surprise, in tenderness,  
in the holy purpose of this day.

**Congregation: Draw near, God is here.**

Reader 2: Let us worship God with gladness!

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;  
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to light,  
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,  
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,  
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.

5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:  
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

#### PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

\* HYMN – Herald! Sound The Note Of Judgement

117 (see pgs. 9-10)

#### COLLECTION OF WHITE GIFTS

*Following the Collection of White Gifts, children are invited to join our Faith Finders.*

*This morning the Faith Finders children SK – Grade 8  
are reviewing the Christmas Pageant in the downstairs HUB area.*

*Parents can meet the children there following worship.*

*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.*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

### THE PRESENTATION

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Following questions to the candidate for baptism,  
the congregation makes promises to the candidate and together we profess our faith.*

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,  
promise to guide and nurture,  
by word and deed,  
with love and in prayer,  
encouraging her to follow the way of Christ  
and to be a faithful member of his church?

**Congregation: We do.**

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us, with all the people of God, confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

DECLARATION AND WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP

**Come, grow with us into Christ who is our head.  
"There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of us all,  
who is above all and through all and in all."**

\* AARONIC BLESSING

619

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you his peace.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*Elders come forth to extend a welcome*

**GOD SPEAKS TO US**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 1)

SERMON: **Near in Our Doubt**

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

\* HYMN – All Earth Is Waiting

109 (see pg. 11)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Torches*

J. Joubert

*Torches, torches, run with torches All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping: come and sing your song to him!*

*Ah, Ro-ro, Ro-ro, my baby, Ah, Ro-ro, my love, Ro-ro:  
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, While we sing you our Ro-ro.*

*Sing, my friends, and make you merry, Joy and mirth and joy again:  
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, Now and evermore. Amen.*

\* 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.*

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 - Good Christians, All Rejoice

141

Good Christians, all rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;

1. now give heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today,  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today;  
Christ is born today.

2. now you hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this;  
Christ was born for this.

3. now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save;  
Christ was born to save.

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme/ Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier* J. G. Walther  
("Awake, The Voice Is Calling Us/Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")



**Welcome to Central. If you're new today, we're glad you've come.**

We're a community seeking to live with courage, kindness, and grace. We don't have all the answers, but we trust God is with us as we learn and grow together. 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](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)). If you would like to be added to our email list, please inform Helena ([helena@cpchamilton.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/)

## Herald! Sound the note of judgement

UNSER HERRSCHER 878787

Descant

4. Her - ald! Sound the note of tri - umph! Christ has come to share our life,

C G/B C /E C F/A G Am /G C/E C F6 G C

1. Her - ald! Sound the note of judge - ment, warn - ing souls of right and wrong,  
 2. Her - ald! Sound the note of glad - ness! Tell the news that Christ is here;  
 3. Her - ald! Sound the note of par - don! Those re - pent - ing are for - given;  
 4. Her - ald! Sound the note of tri - umph! Christ has come to share our life,

bring - ing God's own love and pow - er, grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.

C G/B C /E C F/A G Am /G C/E C F6 G C

turn - ing them from sin and sad - ness, till once more they sing the song.  
 make a path - way through the des - ert for the one who brings God near.  
 God re - ceives us way - ward child - ren, and to all new life is given.  
 bring - ing God's own love and pow - er, grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.

Sound the trum - pet! Tell the mess - age! Christ the Sav - iour King has come!

C /E Gsus4-3 Am /C Esus4-3 F C Am Dm/F G C

Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mess-age! Christ the Sav-iour King has come!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics underneath. The middle staff is a guitar accompaniment in treble clef with chord symbols above it. The bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef. The lyrics are: "Sound the trum - pet! Tell the mess - age! Christ the Sav - iour King has come!". The chord symbols are: C, /E, Gsus4-3, Am, /C, Esus4-3, F, C, Am, Dm/F, G, C.

## All earth is waiting

TAULÉ 11 12 11

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,  
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el:  
 3. Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be made plain;  
 4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom-ised One ap - peared;

and o - pen fur - rows a - wait the seed of God. All the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em-man - u - el," one whose  
 o - pen new high-ways, new high-ways for the Lord. He is  
 yet feel his pres-ence through-out the earth to - day, for he

world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it  
 name is "God-with-us" our Sav - iour shall be; with  
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see; and  
 lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now; a -

cries out for jus - tice and search-es for the truth.  
 him hope will blos - som once more with-in our hearts.  
 o - pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.  
 gain, with his com-ing he brings us lib-er-ty.

Words: Alberto Taulé (1932-); translation, Gertrude C. Suppe (1911-) Music: Alberto Taulé (1932-); harmony, Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992)

Words: translation copyright © The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989 Music: copyright © Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, 1993. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Harmony, copyright © Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

## Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- ~ Sunday, December 14, 10:30 a.m. **Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service & White Gift Sunday**
- ~ Sunday, December 14 after worship **Giving Tree Ornaments in support of Gaza crises**  
(Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Sunday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Carol Service**
- ~ Monday, December 15, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Café** (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Thursday, December 18, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go** (Forecourt)
- ~ Thursday, December 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Central Choir Rehearsal**
- ~ 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**
- ~ Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Service**
- ~ Tuesday, January 7, 10:00 a.m. **Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)

The Mission Committee of Central has identified areas of need that you are invited to donate to this Advent season. Besides today's White Gift Sunday, you are invited to contribute to the PWS&D's Gaza Response.

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** for those who wish to contribute to the PWS&D's Gaza Response. [Support PWS&D's Gaza Response - Presbyterian World Service & Development](#)



### 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](mailto: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](http://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



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

*On that day I will raise up  
the booth of David that is fallen,  
and repair its breaches,  
and raise up its ruins,  
and rebuild it as in the days of old.*  
- Amos 9:11

**From the ruins of our lives,  
you create a new community;  
from those days  
we would rather forget,  
you weave your future.**

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 Frebold  
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](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca)  
[www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)  
Central's Copyright license: © CCLI #2886178

***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.***

### **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/>