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



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905-522-9098 | [cpchamilton.ca](http://cpchamilton.ca)  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

December 28, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Organist – Emile Swanepoel

Lector – Shirley Fredlander

Greeters – Shirley Fredlander & Tracy Woodrow

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this Morning!

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

PRELUDE *Sheep may safely graze* (from Cantata No. 208)

J.S. Bach (1685 –1750)

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

**All: Praise God, sun and moon!**

One: God's name alone is exalted;

**All: God is above the earth and heaven.**

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the  
Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

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

Isaiah 63:7-9 (pg. 693)

SERMON: **The God Who Carried Us**

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* HYMN – Once In Royal David’s City

166

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. Christ came down to earth from  
heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
sheltered by a humble stable,  
cradled in a cattle stall:  
with the poor, oppressed and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy,

3. and our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
there God's children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

### THE OFFERING

### INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706)

\* 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.*

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD’S 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 – Joy To The World

153

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive its King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### \* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Introduction and Variations on an Old Polish Carol*

(from Op. 60, Book 2, No. 1)

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)



**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).

## Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D with refrain

G D G/B G G/D D G/B C 6 G/D D G

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King,  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-eous-ness!

G D Em G/D A7/C# Bm A/C# D /F# Gmaj7 A7 D

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

G/B D7/F# G G/D D G/B D7/F# G G/D D

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

C Am/CE7 Am D/C G/B G G/D D7 G

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."  
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

C Am/C E Am /G D/F# /C G/B G /D D7 G

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King.

## 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/)

**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).

### Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

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| ~ Sunday, December 28, 10:30 a.m.  | <b>Sunday Worship Service</b>                |
| ~ Monday, December 29, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.   | <b>H.O.O.T.C. Café</b> (Fellowship Hall)     |
| ~ <b><u>Paused:</u></b> Thursday, January 1  | <b>H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go</b>                |
| ~ Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m.  | <b>In Memoriam Service</b>                   |
| ~ Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.   | <b>Knit &amp; Knatter Group</b> (Guild Room) |
| ~ Thursday, January 8, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  | <b>H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go</b> (Forecourt)    |
| ~ Thursday, January 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m.  | <b>Central Choir Rehearsal</b>               |
| ~ Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 p.m.   | <b>Session Meeting</b>                       |
| ~ Sunday, January 25, 3:00 p.m. <b>Music@Central: Jonathan Oldengarm &amp; Charlton String Quartet</b> |  |
| ~ Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m.   | <b>Central Book Club</b> (Allan Room)        |

## 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)



**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 31<sup>st</sup>*. 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.

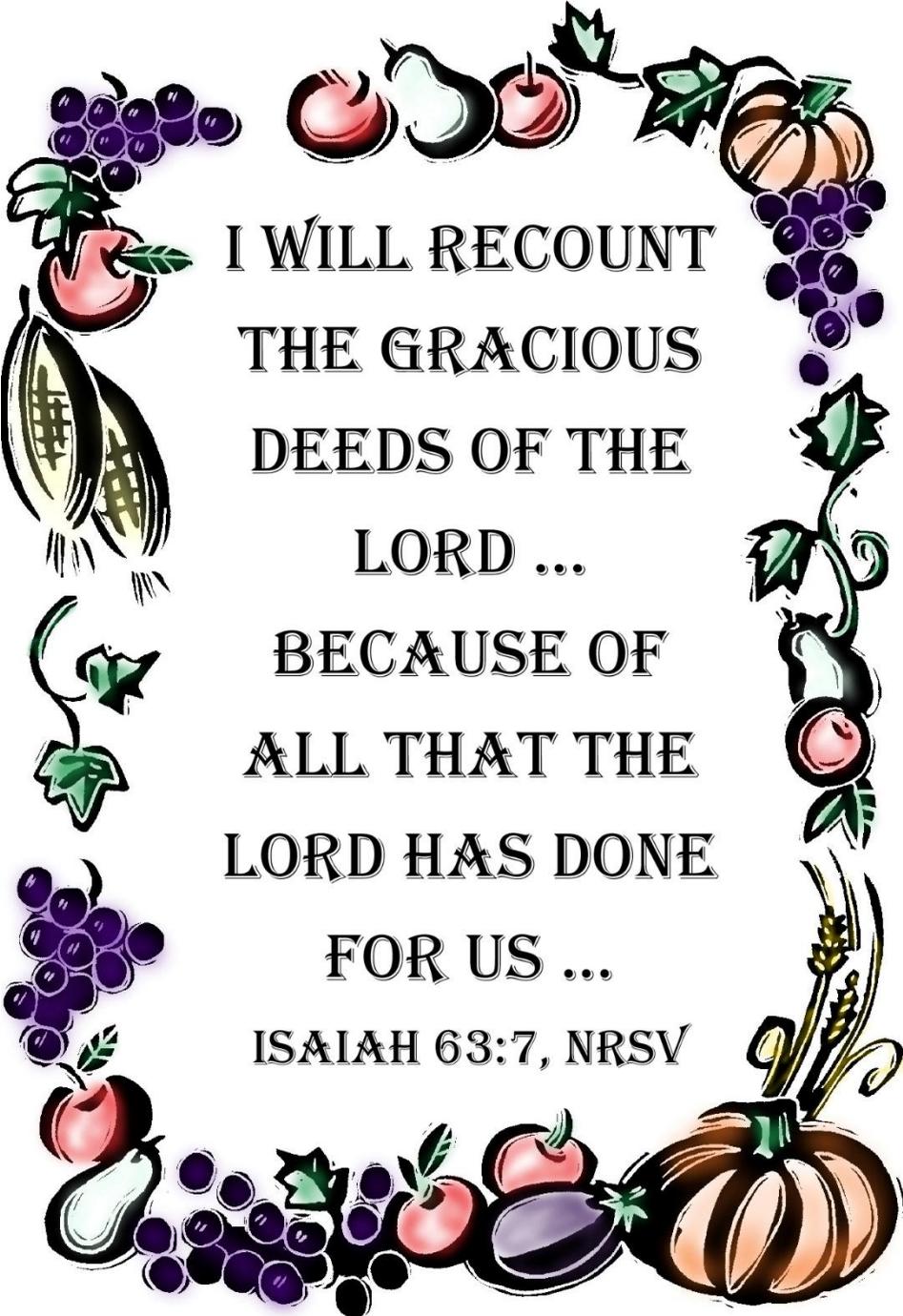
Thank you for your support of the causes the Mission Committee identified this Advent season. Generous gifts towards *Giving Hearts of Hamilton* on White Gift Sunday, and the Gaza Response were received. Over \$1100.00 was contributed to the PWS&D's Gaza Response!

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. [Support PWS&D's Gaza Response - Presbyterian World Service & Development](#)



### Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*





I WILL RECOUNT  
THE GRACIOUS  
DEEDS OF THE  
LORD ...  
BECAUSE OF  
ALL THAT THE  
LORD HAS DONE  
FOR US ...  
ISAIAH 63:7, NRSV



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  
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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.***

### **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/>