



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

December 7, 2025 10:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath Lighting – Sandor Family

Lector – Pam Carpenter

Greeters – Abbie Boyko & Tracy Woodrow

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this Morning!

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

Arr. by D. Paxton

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *People in Darkness #124 vs. 3*

People in trouble would like to be free. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People with arguments want to agree. Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: In the wilderness, where the path is unclear,
God calls out, "Prepare the way,"
and peace draws near.

Reader 2: As the noise around us grows and the world feels unsettled,
we come again to this small, brave act:
we light a candle and dare to call it peace.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

Reader 1: Peace that steadies our trembling,
Peace that softens the edges,
Peace that meets us on the wilderness road.

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 peace settling close at hand.

Congregation: Draw near, God is here.

Reader 2: Let us worship God with gladness!

* HYMN – Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

122 vs. 5-7 (see pg. 7)

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song!

2. You come the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before you burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3. You come the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure,
to bring the treasures of God's grace,
good tidings for the poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your most honoured name.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Following the Time with the Children, 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.*

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 3:1-12 (pg. 2)

SERMON: **Near in the Wilderness**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN – On Jordan's Bank

126

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from
sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:
without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine
hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Jesus Christ The Apple Tree*

E. Poston

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which make my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*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 (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**

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN - Canticle Of The Turning

see pgs. 8-9

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon in C Major*

H. Purcell, Arr. by G. Peterson



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).

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL 8 8 8 8 8 8

Unison

1. Oh come, oh come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 3. Oh come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things
 4. Oh come, thou Branch of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 5. Oh come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Em Bm G Am Em D Bm C

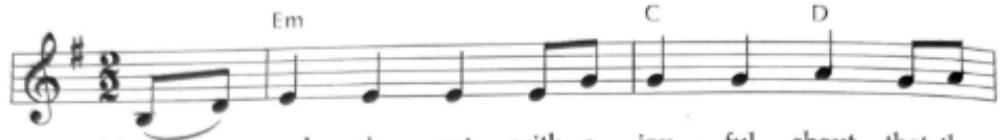
Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high

Am Bm Em Am Em Bm

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice!...

7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart, one mind;
 bid envy, strife and discord cease,
 and be thyself our source of peace.
 Rejoice!...

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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/

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.

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, December 7, 10:30 a.m. **Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service**
- ~ Sunday, December 7 after worship **Giving Tree Ornaments in support of Gaza crises**
(Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Sunday, December 7, 2:30 p.m. **Service of Induction for Rev. Hannah Lovaglio**
- ~ Monday, December 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Café** (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Tuesday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. **Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)
- ~ Tuesday, December 9, 11:30 a.m. **Knit & Knatter Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch** (Guild Room)
- ~ Thursday, December 11, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. **H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go** (Forecourt)
- ~ Thursday, December 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Central Choir Rehearsal**
- ~ 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**
- ~ Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**

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).

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** 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

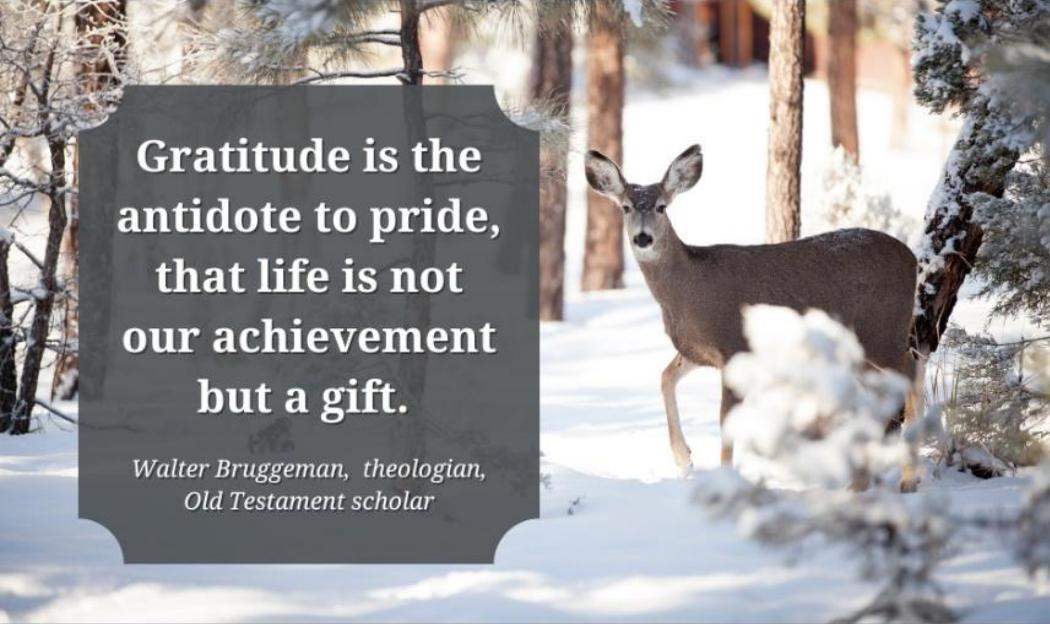


Central will again be sharing our gifts with Giving Hearts of Hamilton on White Gift Sunday. The needs for those who are unhoused continue to be great.

Here is a list of needed items: hats, mitts, scarves, hot paws, warm socks, blankets, coats, boots, tarps, sleeping bags, oversized ziplock bags for carrying their items to keep them dry. Hand creams, chapstick, Gift Cards to Grocery stores, Canadian Tire, Tim Horton's or anywhere they could get a hot drink/soup etc. Snacks that are easy to carry around - granola bars or nutrigrain bars.

Donated items can be placed at the base of the Sanctuary Christmas tree on December 14th.

Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*



**Gratitude is the
antidote to pride,
that life is not
our achievement
but a gift.**

*Walter Bruggeman, theologian,
Old Testament scholar*



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

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 Second Sunday in Advent,
by Rev. Thom M. Shuman

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! - Psalm 100:6

**Let everything
I touch
I see
be an instrument
of your praise!**

***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.***

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 Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French
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