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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.*



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

# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

March 15, 2026 10:30 a.m.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday Worship

Minister – Rev. Lois Whitwell

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Lector – Josh Weresch

Greeters – Phillipa Ashby & Jean Williams

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

*Welcome, Families! We offer a staffed **nursery** throughout the service for young ones up to age 4. Children's bulletins and colouring pages are available on the table in the Sanctuary entryway. Following the **God's Word For The Children**, children are invited to join our Faith Finders program for children SK - Grade 8 in the downstairs HUB area. Children who attend Faith Finders will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn to receive the blessing alongside the entire congregation.*

\* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Prelude on 'Rendez à Dieu'*

K. Beaumont, Attr. to L. Bourgeois

### OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

196 vs. 3 & 4

*We bear the silence, cross and pain of human burdens, human strife,  
while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the feast of life.*

*And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on  
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming dawn.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We draw near to a loving God,

All: **who meets us not as we imagine we should be,  
but rather as we are.**

We draw near to God who call us  
**from shadow into light,  
and certainty into wonder.**

We draw near to God  
**asking that our eyes may be opened,  
and our seeing shaped by grace.**

1. Oh for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.

2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
and bids our sorrows cease:  
'tis music in the sinner's ears;  
'tis life and health and peace.

3. He speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
the humble poor believe.

4. Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy.

5. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.

PRAYER 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'S WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Hymn 348 v. 1

*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

\* HYMN - Open My Eyes, That I May See

Hymn 500 (see pg. 6)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

**Psalm 23** in the Red Book of Psalms, **Refrain I**

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 102)

John 9:1-41

SERMON: **Seeing Clearly**

**Life in Christ brings joy, liberty, glory.  
But it also brings conflict  
with unbelief, fear, and temptation.  
Throughout our lives  
we struggle with disheartening difficulties.  
Yet the Holy Spirit helps us  
and gives us power to grow in Christ.  
While we are far from perfect  
yet our lives can be pleasing to God  
and helpful to others.**

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

\* HYMN – Lord Of Light, Whose Name And Splendour

Hymn 769 (see pgs. 7-8)

THE OFFERING

*Tithes and offerings can be given electronically through Canada Helps website,  
found using the QR code to the right.*



S. S. Wesley

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Wash Me Thoroughly From My Wickedness*

*Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.  
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.*

\* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Hymn 205 vs. 6

*All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad,  
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.*

PRAYER 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 – Forth In Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

652

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go  
my daily labour to pursue;  
thee, only thee, resolved to know,  
in all I think, or speak, or do.

3. Thee may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
and labour on at thy command,  
and offer all my works to thee.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned  
oh let me cheerfully fulfil;  
in all my works thy presence find,  
and prove thy good and perfect will.

4. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,  
and every moment watch and pray,  
and still to things eternal look,  
and hasten to thy glorious day.

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegretto and Gigue from the Wren Chapel Suite*

J. S. Dixon

*As the postlude is offered,  
you may stay and receive the music,  
or go and bless the world God loves.*



**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).

## Open my eyes, that I may see

OPEN MY EYES 8 8 9 8 with refrain

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab6 Ab

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me;  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear,  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth eve - ry - where;

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb Eb

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 and while the wave - notes fall on my ear, eve - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
 o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

Refrain  
Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see;

(Eb/Bb Ab/C) Ab7C# Db(6) Eb7 Ab

o - pen my eyes:  
 o - pen my ears: il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 o - pen my heart:

Words: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897) Music: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

## 769 Lord of light, whose name and splendour

BETHANY (SMART) 8 7 8 7 D

E $\flat$  A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G B $\flat$ 6 C $\flat$  A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$  /A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G E $\flat$

1. Lord of light, whose name and splen-dour far out-shine the  
 2. By the faith-ful-ness of work-ers serv-ing you in  
 3. Grant that know-ledge, still in-creas-ing, at your feet might  
 4. By pray-ers of faith-ful watch-ers, nev-er si-lent

E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$ 6 B $\flat$  E $\flat$  C $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D B $\flat$ 6 C $\flat$  F7 B $\flat$  sus4-3

suns of space, deign to make us your co-work-ers  
 eve-ry field; by the cour-age where the ra-diance  
 hum-bly kneel; with your grace our tri-umphs hal-low,  
 day or night; by the cross of Je-sus bring-ing

B $\flat$ /A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$ /C E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$  B $\flat$  /D F sus4-3

in the king-dom of your grace; use us to ful-  
 of the cross is still re-vealed; by the vic-to-  
 with your char-i-ty our zeal; lift all na-tions  
 peace to all, and heal-ing light; by the love that

Words: Howell Elvet Lewis (1860-1953), alt Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

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Eb/G CnvA Eb/Bb Bb /D Bb7 Eb6 Bb/F F7 Bb

fil your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son:  
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - fering won:  
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
 pass - es know - ledge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Ab/C Bb7/D Ebsus4-3 Ab C7 Fm Eb/G Ab6 Bb7 Eb

Ab - ba, as in high - est heav - en so on earth your will be done.

## 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.**

PC Statement of Welcome: [www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/](http://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](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 contact information is up-to-date with your elder or the church office.

**March is Fraud Prevention Month.** Scams are ever evolving, and frequently impersonate church leaders, bank or phone company representatives. We encourage you to stay alert and informed. Remember no one from the church will ever ask for personal information or request assistance with gift cards or payments. Learn more here: [https://support.bell.ca/Billing-and-Accounts/Security\\_and\\_privacy](https://support.bell.ca/Billing-and-Accounts/Security_and_privacy)

The March edition of the CONTACT Newsletter and the 2025 Annual Reports with an updated church directory are ready. If you would like a copy, please contact your elder, Mark Stuppel, Pastor Hannah, or Helena in the office.

**Please Note:** Rev. Hannah and Michael Lovaglio are on vacation this week Monday, March 16 - Saturday, March 21, 2026. Please contact Rev. Lois Whitwell, Mark Stuppel, your elder, or Helena in the office for church matters during this time.



**Sundays ~ at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Palm Sunday Service ~ March 29 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Maundy Thursday Service ~ April 2 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Good Friday Service ~ April 3 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Good Friday Choir Concert ~ April 3 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday ~ April 5 at 10:30 a.m.**

### Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Sundays in March, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
 ~ Sunday, March 15, 10:30 a.m.  
 ~ Monday, March 16, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
 ~ Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.  
 ~ Thursday, March 19, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
 ~ Thursday, March 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
 ~ Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.  
 ~ Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.  
 ~ Sunday, April 12, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
 ~ Sunday, April 12, 3:00 p.m.  
 ~ Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

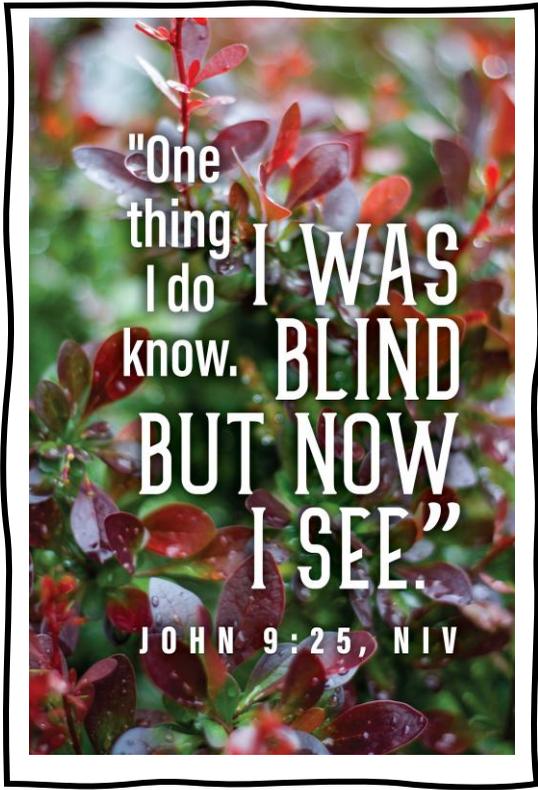
**Lenten Book Study on the Gospel of John**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent Worship Service**  
**H.O.O.T.C. Café** (Fellowship Hall)  
**Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)  
**H.O.O.T.C. Meals To Go** (Ramp Door)  
**Central Choir Rehearsal**  
**Central Book Club** (Allan Room)  
**Session Meeting**  
**Final Lenten Book Study on the Gospel of John**  
**Music@Central: Marcus Scholtes & Ben Smith**  
**Societus Vicorum** (Guild Room)

**Invitation to Societus Vicorum:** CPC is excited to announce a new discussion group starting Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. Entitled Societus Vicorum, the group will decide on when it will regularly meet at their first gathering. Our first few books will engage with faith and politics, starting with N.T. Wright and Michael F Bird's *Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies*. For more information, please contact Michael Lovaglio at [michael@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:michael@cpchamilton.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/>



**Sermon Notes**



## Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*



**To give without  
any reward, or  
any notice, has a  
special quality  
of its own.**

*Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906 –  
2001), aviator and writer*



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

*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  
Coordinator of Discipleship – Michael Lovaglio  
Bookkeeper – Michelle Fربول  
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma  
Custodian – David Lewington  
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann  
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[www.cpchamilton.ca](http://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.***