

Good Friday Service of the Nails



April 3rd, 2026, 10:30 am

Central Presbyterian Church
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON

Good Friday Service of the Nails
Minister - Rev. Lois Whitwell
Minister - Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Director of Music Ministries - Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Readers: Ramona Starkey, Sara Traficante, Judy Johnson,
Beth McKay Reilly, Dr. Chris Allen, Johanna DeBruin
A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning.

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE "God So Loved The World" (from *The Crucifixion*) J. Stainer, Arr. by L. Smith

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

The service is known as the "Service of The Nails." It is a series of readings, responses, and silent reflection and prayer designed to help us enter more deeply into the meaning of Good Friday. Everyone is requested to take a nail from the basket, if they do not have one yet, and to keep it with them. After the benediction you can sit and leave in silence when you ready.

Let us now prepare to worship our God.....

Light the Christ Candle

THE APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:13-15

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Leader: See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him --so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals-- so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

* HYMN - Oh Come and Mourn With Me Awhile

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PRAYER OF APPROACH

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O merciful God, you did not spare your only Son, but offered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that we might so examine ourselves that we realize our own sinfulness, so great as to spiritually crucify him anew. Help us to recognize those nails which we drive into his cross today, and transform us into more faithful disciples in his name. Amen.

THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

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THE NAIL OF PRIDE

Mark 12:38-40

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

Leader: O God, we know too that our pride hurts you.

THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:47-56

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.

Leader: O God, we know too that our betrayal hurts you.

THE NAIL OF ENVY

Matthew 20:20-28

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

Leader: O God, we know too that our envy hurts you.

THE NAIL OF INDECISION

Matthew 27:20-24

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

**People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.
Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

Leader: O God, we know too that our indecision hurts you.

THE NAIL OF CRUELTY

Matthew 27:27-31, 39-42, 45-48

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

**People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.
Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

Leader: O God, we know too that our cruelty hurts you.

THE NAIL OF HATRED

Luke 6:22, 32-35

* HYMN - Man Of Sorrows

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Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

Leader: O God - help us consider how we show hate to others, how we fail to care for others and make distinctions among them.

**People: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.
Our hatred hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

Leader: O God, we know too that our hatred hurts you.

NAILS

THE RESPONSE

ACT OF CONFESSION

Isaiah 53:4-6

Leader: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

People: He was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.

Leader: All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

Leader: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

People: By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

Leader: They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

People: Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Leader: Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

People: The righteous one, God's servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Leader: Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

OFFERING

* HYMN - Jesus, Remember Me

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PRAYER

Leader: Lord God, you have given us everything.

People: You have not held anything back, not even your only begotten son.

Leader: With humble hearts we thank you.

People: In new hope we offer to you and for the work of salvation our every gift and our very selves.

Leader: Be pleased, O God, in the name of Jesus, to accept all that we offer at this time. Look upon the intentions of our hearts. Hear our prayers and in your love answer. Lord we each come forward to bring to you our concerns, our hopes, our sins, here represented by the nail that we lay at the foot of the cross.....

..... (silent prayer)

Leader: We ask all these things through him who taught us to pray to you, saying:

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

* HYMN - O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

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FINAL STATEMENT

BENEDICTION



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.

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

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 the office (info@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098 ext. 0).

CPC Statement of Welcome: www.cpchamilton.ca/welcome-statement/

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

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



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/

Central Presbyterian Church - Land Acknowledgement *

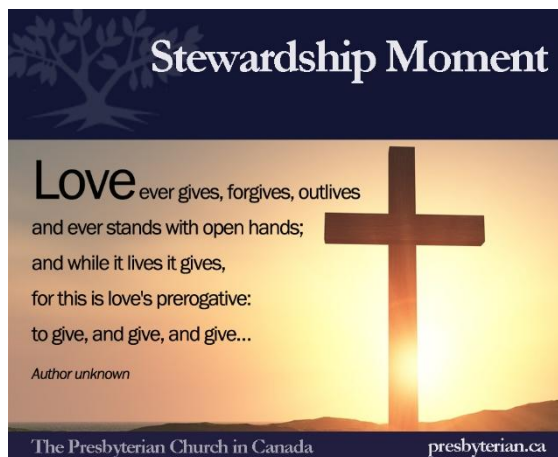
We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples.

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/>



***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

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

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