



905-522-9098 | cpchamilton.ca
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

October 4, 2026 10:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday and Intergenerational Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Liturgist – Rev. Lois Whitwell

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Lector – Colleen Yu

Greeters – Jim & Valerie Dunlop

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

On World Communion Sunday, Christians around the world gather at Christ's table, remembering that across nations, languages, cultures, and traditions, we are one body in Christ. Today our table is filled with many kinds of bread as a sign of the beautiful diversity of Christ's church—and the abundant welcome of Christ, who saves a seat for us all.

*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.

Today is an intergenerational worship service, designed with worshipers of all ages in mind.

Children are helping to lead the service, and invited to stay throughout the service.

There will be no Faith Finders program during worship today.

* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Elevation - F. Capocci*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT – *New Every Morning*

Music by R. Schumann, Text by J. Keble

New every morning is the love Our wakening and uprising prove;

Thro' sleep and darkness safely brought, Restored to life, and power and thought.

new mercies, each returning day, Hover around us while we pray;

New perils past, new sins forgiven, New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If you are hungry,

All: there is room at God's table.

One: If you are weary,

All: there is a seat saved for you.

One: If you dream of belonging,

All: then we will practice belonging here.

One: From north, south, east, and west,

All: God invites us home.

One: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of every place and every people,
you made a world wider than we can imagine.
You are worshipped today
in sanctuaries and living rooms,
in cities and villages,
in languages we understand
and languages we do not.

Still, you gather us around one table
and call us one body.
We praise you for a love this wide,
a grace this abundant,
a table this large.

And trusting that there is room enough
even for the truth about ourselves,
we confess our sin:

**Creator God,
you call us to love our neighbours as ourselves,
And to live as though we belong to one another.
Yet what is out of sight is often out of mind.**

**Forgive us for training our hearts to focus only on what is in front of us.
Forgive us for ignoring the tie that binds us to all of creation.
Forgive us for assuming that you being with us means you can't be with others too.
Our gaze has been too narrow.**

**Open our hearts.
Expand our understanding.
Help us to celebrate the many places you are present in this world.
Remind us of the tie that binds us to all of creation.
With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, I don't know what this past week has looked like for you,
but I do know this:

there is a seat at God's table saved for you.

And that is the case

even if you overlooked your neighbor,

even if you doubted God's love for you,

even if you chose scarcity over abundance, or fear over joy.

God has a seat saved for you.

Trusting this good news, join me in the words of forgiveness:

We are known. We are loved. We are forgiven. We begin again.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Nourishing God,

Open up something new in us.

Open up curiosity or hunger.

Open up attentiveness or compassion.

Open up the parts of our hearts that need your centering Word most.

And then,

like yeast in bread,

may your love expand in us.

We are listening.

We are hopeful.

Amen.

* HYMN – In Christ There Is No East Or West

Hymn # 480

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

3. Join hands, companions in the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who loves and serves the one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

4. In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north,
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

"Pocket-Sized Moments" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Poetry can open doors in us that then allow for us to listen and connect to the text in deeper ways. We offer it as the first reading today recognizing it can help prepare us to hear the Scripture Reading.

I wonder if we will know when restoration comes.
Will it feel big and dramatic like a summer rain?
Joyful and overwhelming, like an end-of-war parade?
Maybe.

Or will it be small?
Will it be pocket-sized moments, like wishing on stars,
the sun through the curtains, or lightning bugs in the yard?
Maybe.

I don't know how God will restore this world,
just like I don't know how to make the summer rain.

But I do know how to say I'm sorry.
And I do know how to love with all of me.
And I know how to say, "This cup is for you,"
And I know how to taste grace in grape juice.

So on the off-chance that restoration will be small,
pocket-sized moments of love for all,
I will bake bread and save a seat for you.
I will say I'm sorry and say I love you too.
I will plant gardens and look for fireflies.
I will say prayers on shooting stars at night.

And when the sun shines through my curtain windows,
remind me to open them wide.
I would hate to miss God's parade,
these holy ordinary days.

— Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

SECOND -- SCRIPTURE -- READING (p. 120)

Acts 2:42-47

SERMON: **Save a Seat**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a nourishing God
who provided manna in the wilderness and water from the rock.**

**We believe in a with-us God, Jesus of Nazareth,
who set tables for the lonely and ate with the forgotten.**

**We believe in an expansive God – the wild Holy Spirit –
meeting us in ritual, regardless of where we gather.**

Trusting that good news, we come to the Table.

We pull up extra seats.

We learn each other's names.

We bless the food.

We tell the story.

**We remember Christ's love,
and we look for God in all of it.**

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

Amen.

THE OFFERING

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



On Communion Sundays, our church leaders encourage you to make an offering towards the Benevolent Fund. You will find "Session Benevolent Fund" envelopes in the pew today or you may give through Canada Helps and indicate the Benevolent Fund on the message line.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

God of Great and God of Small - Natalie Sleeth
Central Youth, Christy Cummings, piano

*God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.*

*God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never ending pow'r, Yet beside me ev'ry hour,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.*

*God of silence, God of sound, God in whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,*

*God of heav'n and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.*

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

* HYMN – This is the Feast of Freedom

Text: Chris Shelton; Tune: LLANFYLLIN

This is the feast of freedom;
the table has been spread
with wine of liberation,
with boundary-breaking bread.
So, come, all you who hunger,
who yearn to be set free,
come, share the food of freedom,
the taste of liberty.

This is the feast of justice;
the tables turned at last.
The lowly are exalted;
the mighty are downcast.
So, come, all you who hunger,
you have an honoured place;
each seat is set with justice,
each cup is filled with grace.

This is the fest of promise;
we do not dine alone.
“Forever, I am with you,”
Christ says to all his own.
So, come, all you who hunger
For true community,
come, share Communion’s promise,
Christ’s presence: taste and see.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the lost and the found,
On this World Communion Sunday,
we admit that we are hungry.
We are hungry for justice.
We are hungry for beauty.
We are hungry for peace in the corners of the world that ache.
We are hungry for friendship across party lines.
We are hungry for closer relationships and deeper faith.
We are hungry for bread that nourishes our bodies and souls.

So now, we lift up to you the deepest longings of our hearts,
the hunger pangs that weigh heavy on our spirits.
Hear now the things that our souls hunger for:

We offer the prayers of our hearts in silence.

Gracious God, we are hungry, but we are also hopeful.
We are hopeful because at this Table we are reminded of what community
can look like.
And at this Table we remember what love tastes like.
At this Table we remember what welcome feels like.
At this Table, we are united.

So again, we turn to you with our prayers.
But this time, we lift up our prayers of gratitude.
Hear, once again the countless things we have to give thanks for:

We offer the prayers of our hearts in silence.

God of manna and mustard seeds,
We are hungry and we are hopeful.
As we gather at this Table together, we ask that you would pour out your spirit on
this ordinary bread and cup.
Transform this simple feast into a reminder of what could be —
a world where all are fed,
all are welcomed, and all are known.

Until that day,
may this bread nourish our bodies alongside our spirits.
May the joy of singing and feasting together buoy our weary hearts.
And may your radical welcome open deeper compassion in us for our neighbors.

With gratitude for your love and a hunger for community, we weave our voices
together in prayer with the words your son taught us to pray, singing them together:

**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**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

Communion music: *My God and is Thy Table Spread* - B. Van Der Hoek

*My God and is Thy table spread, And doth Thy cup with love o'er flow?
Thither be all Thy children led, And let them all Thy sweetness know.*

*Hail, sacred feast, which Jesus makes, Rich banquet of his Flesh and Blood! Thrice happy
they who here partake, That sacred Stream, that heavenly Food.*

*Why are its bounties all in vain, Before unwilling hearts displayed?
Was not for them the Victim slain? Are they forbid the children's bread?*

*O let Thy table honoured be, And furnished well with joyful guests;
And may each soul salvation see, That here its sacred pledges tastes.*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN – Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Hymn # 410 (see pgs. 13-14)

* BENEDICTION

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
may you leave hungry –
hungry for justice.
May you leave hopeful –
hopeful for the day when we will return to God's Table.
And may you leave knowing, deep in your bones,
that nothing can separate you from the love of God.
For no matter where you go –
north, south, east or west –
the God of creation will have a seat saved for you.
Go, and love likewise. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Nun freut euch, lieben Christen* (“Now Rejoice, Dear Christians”) J. S. Bach

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

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



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).

If you would like to be added to our email list, please inform the office (info@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). Central's Prayer Team is available to receive needs in confidence. Contact Pam Carpenter at 905-526-0631 or carpenterfamily@sympatico.ca.

The flowers are placed in the chancel to the Glory of God

If you would like to dedicate **Chancel flowers** in memory or honour of a loved one, contact either Johanna DeBruin or Jim Watson from the Flower Committee



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 (see above for the QR code for Canada Helps to give electronically).

Stewardship Moments: Inspiring Generosity



In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
Letters and Papers from Prison

Jesus calls us here to meet him

JESUS CALLS US 8 7 8 7 D

Unison F Gm7 F/A Bb6 Am7

1. Je - sus calls us here to meet him as, through
 2. Je - sus calls us to con - fess him Word of
 3. Je - sus calls us to each oth - er: found in
 4. Je - sus calls us to his ta - ble root - ed

Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

word and song and prayer, we af - firm God's
 Life and Lord of all, shar - er of our
 him are no di - vides. Race and class and
 firm in time and space, where the church in

F/C Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3

prom - ised pres - ence where his peo - ple live and care.
 flesh and frail - ness sav - ing all who fail or fall.
 sex and lan - guage: such are bar - riers he de - rides.
 earth and heav - en finds a com - mon meet - ing place.

Words: Iona Community (Scotland) Music: Gaelic melody; adaptation, Iona Community (Scotland)

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F Cm F Dm Bb6

Praise the God who keeps his* prom - ise; praise the
 Tell his ho - ly hu - man sto - ry; tell his
 Join the hands of friend and strang - er; join the
 Share the bread and wine, his bod - y; share the

Am7 Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

Son who calls us friends; praise the Spir - it
 tales that all may hear; tell the world that
 hands of age and youth; join the faith - ful
 love of which we sing; share the feast for

F/A Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 F

who, a - mong us, to our hopes and fears at - tends.
 Christ in glo - ry came to earth to meet us here.
 and the doubt - er in their com - mon search for truth.
 saints and sin - ners host - ed by our Lord and King.

* the

Joyful, joyful we adore you

HYMN TO JOY 8 7 8 7 D

G sus2 /D D7 G/D D/C

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore you,
 2. All your works with joy sur - round you;
 3. You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing,
 4. Mor - ning stars, a - wake the cho - rus;

G/B D7/A G /D D G C/G G7

God of glo - ry, Lord of love. Hearts un - fold like
 earth and heaven re - flect your rays; stars and an - gels
 ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed, well - spring of the
 mor - tals, join with eve - ry part, for what joy is

C (sus4) 6 maj7 (6) G/D D7 Em/D

flowers be - fore you, o - pening to the
 sing a - round you, cen - tre of un -
 joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of
 set be - fore us as Christ's love joins

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933), alt Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827);
 arrangement, Edward Hodges (1796–1867)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

D7 G D G/D D7 G/D

sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness;
 bro - ken praise. Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain,
 hap - py rest. God Cre - a - tor, Christ our Sav - iour,
 heart to heart! Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward,

D7 B/D# B7 Em 7 A 7 D G C/G G7

drive the dark of doubt a - way; giv - er of im -
 flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea, chant - ing bird and
 all are yours who live in love. Teach us how to
 vic - tors in the midst of strife; joy - ful mu - sic

Csus4 C6 (maj7) G/D D7 G/D D7 G

mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 flow - ing foun - tain, join to praise you joy - ful - ly.
 love our neigh - bour; lift us to your joy a - bove.
 leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Sunday, October 4, 10:30 a.m.	World Communion Sunday Worship Service
~ Sunday, October 4, after worship	Congregational Meeting Election of Elders
~ Sunday, October 4, noon – 1:15 p.m.	Faith Finder Project (Allan Room)
~ Monday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.	Central Book Club (Allan Room)
~ Tuesday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. – noon	Knit & Knatter Group (Guild Room)
~ Tuesday, October 6, 5:00-8:00 p.m.	Central Community Game Night
→ 5:00-6:30 p.m.	Tutoring (Allan Room)
→ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Fall Youth Book Club (Allan Room)
~ Wednesday, October 7, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Durand Market (Forecourt)
~ Thursday, October 8, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Central Recreation Night (Fellowship Hall)
~ Thursday, October 8, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Central Choir Rehearsal
~ Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. – noon	Community Tree Planting Day
~ Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.	Societus Vicorum (Guild Room)
~ Saturday, October 24, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Road Rally in Memory of Gregg Bullock Price
~ Sunday, October 25, 3:00 p.m.	Music@Central ~ Accord Baroque Ensemble

A Meet-Up Event in Memory of Gregg Bullock-Price

Everyone is invited to join in an annual **Road Rally**.

Grab a car, a team (4 maximum per team), a phone, and sign up to rumble!

The money raised from this event will be donated to support Gregg's Games aka Central's Community Game Night.

The Road Rally Event is scheduled for: *Saturday, October 24 · 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

at William Connell City Park (1086 West 5th Street, Hamilton, ON).

Rally start times are between 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

You can enter your team, or you can be placed on a team. Be sure to think of a team name!

Cost for the rally - \$10 per person

If you'd like to participate in the Car Rally, let Rev. Hannah know by Oct 18, and she will register Central's teams via Meet Up

Teams will be given 2 lists and 2 hours to photograph or complete tasks with your group.

You will have 2 hours to get as many points as possible.

**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/

**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/>

Central Presbyterian Church

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 Frebold

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Custodian – David Lewington

Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

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