



O come let us adore Him



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON
165 Charlton Ave. W. Hamilton, ON

December 24, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Interim Minister – Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis
Interim Moderator – Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson
Communion Intersessions – Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Advent Wreath lighting – The Craven Family

A Warm Welcome to all!

** Indicates standing, as you are able.*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*
O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

J. S. Bach
G. F. Kauffmann

INTROIT - *Hope Is A Star*

Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119 v. 4

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live with us, naming our vulnerabilities and inviting our trust. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.

* CAROL - Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

(Soloist, vs. 1; Congregation vs. 2 - 5) 159

1. Oh come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels:

(Refrain)
Oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary,
the virgin blest,
very God, begotten,
not created:
(Refrain)

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh
with holy fear; we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
(Refrain)

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest!'
(Refrain)

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
(Refrain)

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

* CAROL – The First Nowell

136

**1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain)**

**3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to search for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
(Refrain)**

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
(Refrain)**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 667)

Isaiah 40:1-11

GOSPEL READING (p. 58)

Luke 2:1-14

REFLECTION: **Home**

*Born in the night, Mary's child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's child, born in a borrowed room.*

*Clear shining light, Mary's child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child, dawn on our darkened day.*

*Truth of our life, Mary's child, you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's child, go to your cross of wood.*

*Hope of the world, Mary's child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child, walk in our streets again.*

* CAROL – In the Bleak Mid-Winter

145

**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.**

**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.**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERING – *Lo In A Manger*

S. Chatman

*Lo in a manger, radiant in His glory, Our newborn Saviour cradled in a stable,
Angels descend and shepherds tell their story, Christ the Lord is born today.*

*See how the shepherds in the field abiding, leaving their flocks draw nigh with fear and wonder,
We will rejoice in God with us residing, Christ the Lord is born today.*

*Streaming from far and wide all come to praise Him, with them three wise men bearing gifts aplenty,
We sing aloud their Kyrie eleison! Christ the Lord is born today.*

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

* CAROL – O Little Town of Bethlehem

165

**1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

INTERSESSIONS

Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence,
bright within this dark world

Enable us to overcome fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle us with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our families with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle our little world with Advent hope, love, joy and peace

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message

Create a willingness to understand and respond

Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is aching over unbelievable loss . . . bring solace

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle this world with the light of your presence

**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,
For ever and ever. Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

RECEIVING BREAD & WINE

COMMUNION MUSIC - *Christmas Carol Medley*

Central Choir

*(Please come forward down the centre aisle when the usher arrives at your pew
and back along the sides.)*

GOD SENDS US

* CLOSING RESPONSES

Light of God
Lead us

Power of God
Hold us

Joy of God
Heal us

Laughter of God
Bless us

Love of God
Caress us

(Please turn your candle on by twisting the base to the right.)

**Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!"**

**Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata* from "*Organ Music For Christmas*"

J. Pachelbel

Welcome to Central this Christmas Eve!

Central Presbyterian Church is here to offer sacred space for worship, a safe space for community groups to gather, and a generous space to **Hamilton Out of the Cold** serving meals to those who need them. Your presence with us today and your support of our work means so much. May God bless you richly!

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 let Helena know (helena@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098).

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 x33 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.

In Memoriam Worship Service:

Central remembers those who have passed away this past year whether within our congregation or friends. We are continuing this tradition on January 5th as part of our regular worship service. In the service, we will light a candle in remembrance. There will be a time for contemplation and silence as each name is read. You are invited to the Lectern during this time to read the names of your loved ones. Losing a loved one affects us deeply. We hope this service will be a time when we honour those we love, who have passed away.

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Tuesday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship ~ Candlelight Communion
~ Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service - First Sunday after Christmas Day: The Way of Descent
~ Monday, December 30, 10:00 a.m. - Noon	HOOTC Café
~ Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m.	In Memoriam Worship Service
~ Monday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. - Noon	HOOTC Café
~ Tuesday, January 7, 10:00 a.m. - Noon	Knit & Knatter (Guild Room)
~ Thursday, January 9, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	HOOTC Meals to Go
~ Friday, January 10, 5:00 p.m.	Central Youth

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/>

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, or send a cheque to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca. Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

Income Tax Receipts: To have your offering included for 2024 income tax purposes, it must be received at the Church or postmarked, *no later than Tuesday, December 31st*. 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 2024 income tax receipts.

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/



Stewardship Moment

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

Interim Minister – The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson
Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier
Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
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