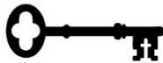




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON
December 29, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service

Minister - Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Organist - Emile Swanepoel

Soloist - Paula Grove

Lector - Shirley Fredlander

Greeters - Pam & Lee Carpenter

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *For unto us a Child is born*

George Frideric Handel

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
Congregation: **on those living in the shadows of death
a light has dawned.**
Jesus Christ is our Life and Light.
In Christ's name, welcome!
In Christ's grace, let us worship God!

1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright:
so, most gracious Lord, may we
ever more be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN – 'Twas In The Mood Of Wintertime

144 (see pgs. 6-7)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 72:1-7 in the Red Book of Psalms, **Refrain 1**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Following the Time with the Children, a program for children SK – Grade 8 will be available in the upstairs Faith Finders room. Parents can meet the children there following worship. Staffed Nursery is available for our young ones up to age 4 throughout the entire service.

SERMON: *The Way of Descent*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN – We Three Kings

173 (vs. 1 soloist, vs. 2-5 all)

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stonecold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Gesù bambino (Baby Jesus)*

Pietro Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang
The grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.*

*(Chorus)
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose
Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.*

*(Chorus)
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.*

* 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*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION & THE LORD 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 - Standing At The Portal

811 (see pgs. 8-9)

* BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE *Cantique de Noël (Christmas Song)*

Adolphe Adam

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 inform Helena (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).

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.

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

JESOUS AHATONHIA 868688647

1. 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled,
 2. With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der Babe was found;
 3. The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
 4. O chil-dren of the for-est free, the kin of Man-i-tou,

Gm Cm7/G Gm7 Cm7/G Gm Cm6/G Gm

that might-y Git-chi Man-i-tou sent an-gel choirs in-stead;
 a rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round,
 as was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there.
 the ho-ly child of earth and heaven is born to-day for you.

Gm Cm7/G Gm7 Cm7/G Gm Cm6/G Gm

be-fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-dering hunt-ers
 but, as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an-gel song rang
 The chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and
 Come kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty,

Dm7/F Dm Cm Cm6/Eb Gm/D Eb/D

Words: Huron, Jean de Brébeuf (1593–1649), translation, J. Edgar Middleton (1872–1960), alt
 Music: Anonymous; arrangement, Frederick Jackisch (1922–)

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Refrain

heard the hymn:
loud and high:
bea - ver pelt. Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is
peace and joy.

Dm7 Dmsus4-3

This system contains the first two lines of the refrain. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are aligned with the notes: 'heard the hymn:' under the first measure, 'loud and high:' under the second, 'bea - ver pelt.' under the third, and 'Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is' under the remaining measures. Chord symbols 'Dm7' and 'Dmsus4-3' are placed above the piano accompaniment.

born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a.

Cm/Eb Gm7/D /Bb Dm Gm

This system contains the third and fourth lines of the refrain. The vocal line continues with 'born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a.' The piano accompaniment continues with chords. Chord symbols 'Cm/Eb', 'Gm7/D', '/Bb', 'Dm', and 'Gm' are placed above the piano accompaniment.

Standing at the portal

ST. ALBAN'S 6 5 6 5 D with refrain

F C7 F /A Bb C

1. Stand - ing at the por - tal of the o - pening year,
 2. "I, your God, am with you: do not be a - fraid;
 3. God will not for - sake us and will nev - er fail;

C7/E F Bb6 F/C C F

words of com - fort meet us hush - ing eve - ry fear,
 I will help and strength - en; do not be dis - mayed,
 God's e - ter - nal cov - enant ev - er will pre - vail.

F/A Gm7 Eb/G Eb6/G D/F# Gm /Bb F/C C

spo - ken through the si - lence by God's lov - ing voice,
 for I will up - hold you with my own right hand;
 Rest - ing on this prom - ise, what have we to fear?

C7 /Bb F/A Bb6 C F

ten - der, strong and faith - ful, mak - ing us re - joice.
 you are called and cho - sen in my sight to stand."
 God is all - suf - fi - cient for the com - ing year.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879), alt Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Refrain

F C7 F F/A B \flat C

On-ward, then, and fear not, chil-dren of the day,

C7/E F B \flat 6 F/C C7 F

for God's word shall nev - er, nev - er pass a - way.

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ 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 Group (Guild Room)
~ Thursday, January 9, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	HOOTC Meals to Go
~ Thursday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
~ Friday, January 10, 5:00 p.m.	Central Youth
~ Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.	Book Club (Allan Room)
~ Sunday, February 2, 3:00 p.m.	Music @ Central: Charlton Quartet Chamber Concert

Status of the search for our new minister:

We have now entered an important phase of the search process as the Search Committee considers potential candidates for our new minister. Please pray for the members of the committee - that they might be wise and discerning as God's Holy Spirit leads them to that special person God has in mind to lead the congregation into the future.

During the search process, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson (our Interim Moderator) either in-person at coffee time following Sunday services; by phone at 905-574-4383; or by email at revpmw@outlook.com.

Please continue to pray along with the Search Committee during the search process.

The Search Committee prayer can be found on our website: [Search Committee Prayer - CPC Hamilton](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/search-committee-prayer/) : www.cpchamilton.ca/search-committee-prayer/

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/>

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/



Come Sing With Us . . .



Add your voice to the chorus of praise that lifts our songs in worship at Central! The choir of Central Presbyterian Church seeks singers with good music reading abilities to join our regular weekly ministry. We also welcome additional singers to join us temporarily for special events in the Christmas and Easter seasons. For information, please contact Dr. Marcus Scholtes, at music@cpchamilton.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.

A/C Appeal

Dear Congregation,

In the dead of winter, we are making an appeal for 5 Air Conditioning Units! The total cost is \$50,000. This Spring, they will be installed in the Boardroom, the Vestry, the Nursery and the Alan room.

This need results from the reconfiguration of our interior space to welcome new tenants in the nursery, as well as in the 3rd floor classrooms. These rentals will now provide us with regular income which enables us to offer sacred space for worship, a safe gathering place for the community, and of course concert space for Music@Central and music space for choirs and concerts in the city of Hamilton.



You are welcome to make your donation online, by cheque, or even in the offering plate marked **A/C appeal**. Donations of \$3790 have been received towards the A/C appeal. We will keep you updated as we progress toward our goal of **\$50,000!**

Jim Morgan
Chair RMC

Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*



**Money is a current, a
carrier, a conduit for
our intentions.**

Lynne Twist

Word of the day

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).



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*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 Frebald
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

Telephone: 905-522-9098 Email: info@cpchamilton.ca www.cpchamilton.ca

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