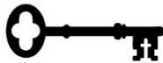




---

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

December 8, 2024 10:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday Advent: The Candle of Peace  
Sunday Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Advent Wreath lighting – Forcier Family

Reader – Abbie Boyko

Greeters – Cathy Keith & Alex Prince

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

\* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE Three Preludes on *Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her*  
("From Heaven Above, To Earth I Come")

F. W. Zachau

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT – *Hope Is A Star*

Words by B. A. Wren, Music by J. C. Fogg 119 v.2

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.*

*Refrain: 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.*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness"  
(Malachi 3:2b-3).

**Congregation: In a world driven by fear giving way to conflict, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.*

5. Oh come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart, one mind;  
Bid envy, strife and discord cease,  
And be thyself our source of peace.

Refrain

## 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 - Hark The Glad Sound

118

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song!

2. You come the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before you burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

3. You come the broken heart to bind,  
the wounded soul to cure,  
to bring the treasures of God's grace,  
good tidings for the poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your most honoured name.

## GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 1:67-79

*The Benedictus was the song of thanksgiving uttered by Zechariah on the occasion of the circumcision of his son, John the Baptist. The canticle received its name from its first words in Latin ("Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel", "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel").*

Leader: Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit  
and spoke this prophecy:  
'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

**Congregation: He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,**

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
**that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

**the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 60)

Luke 3:1-20

SERMON: **Making Way**

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* HYMN - On Jordan's Bank

126

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward:  
without thy grace, we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

### THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *The Little Road To Bethlehem*

Words by M. Rose,  
Music by M. Head, Arr. by N. Cain

*As I walked down the road at set of sun, The lambs were coming homeward, one by one;  
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them, Along the little road to Bethlehem.*

*Beside an open door, as I drew nigh, I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby;  
She sang about the lambs at close of day, And rocked her tiny King amid the hay.*

*Across the air the silver sheep bell rang, "The lambs are coming home,"  
Sweet Mary sang, "Your Star of gold is shining in the sky, so sleep my little King go lullaby."*

*As I walked down the road at set of sun, The lambs were coming homeward, one by one;  
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them, Along the little road to Bethlehem.*

\* 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 - Hail To The Lord's Anointed

115

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;  
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to light,  
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,  
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,  
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.
5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:  
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry/ The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* C. Callahan

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](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).

The annual **Christmas Cookie Walk** is Sunday, December 15. Following the Service, come along to the Guild Room and fill a box with yummy cookies and assorted sweets to celebrate the Christmas season. Your donations for the goodies will be gratefully accepted and will be shared equally with our church and Hamilton Out of the Cold. Please speak to Jean Williams or Beth Mackay Reilly if you have any questions, or if you would be able to donate some baked goods for the walk. Merry Christmas!

**Advent Devotional ~ The Weary World Rejoices by Kate Bowler:** This year, we invite you to embrace the Advent and Christmas season as it is – imperfect, beautiful, and real. Join us in this journey with our free 4-week daily devotional, **The Weary World Rejoices**. You can access this daily devotional via a downloadable PDF, an interactive PDF to save on your device through this link: [https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/#guides](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/#guides) Please contact Helena in the Office if you would like a printed copy of the devotional ([helena@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:helena@cpchamilton.ca))

### **Central Presbyterian Church Calendar**

~ Sunday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
~ Sunday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.	<b>Candlelight Carol Service</b>
~ Monday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>HOOTC Café</b>
~ Tuesday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>Knit &amp; Knatter Group</b>
~ Thursday, December 12, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>HOOTC Meals to Go</b>
~ Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Choir Practice</b>
~ Sunday, December 15, 10:30 a.m.	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
~ Sunday, December 15 after worship	<b>Christmas Cookie Walk</b>
~ Monday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Search Committee Meeting</b>
~ Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent- Christmas Pageant</b>
~ Sunday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> <b>~ Candlelight Communion</b>

## 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/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/)

**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](mailto: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/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/search-committee-prayer/)**

### **Central Presbyterian Church - Land Acknowledgement** \*

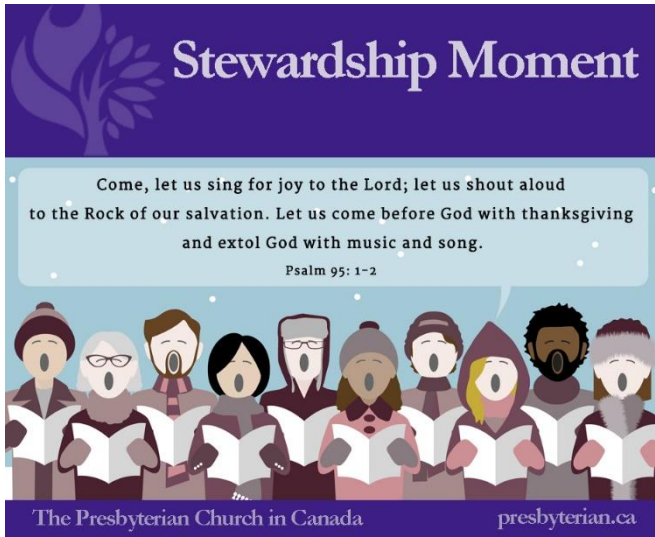
We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around 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/>



## 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



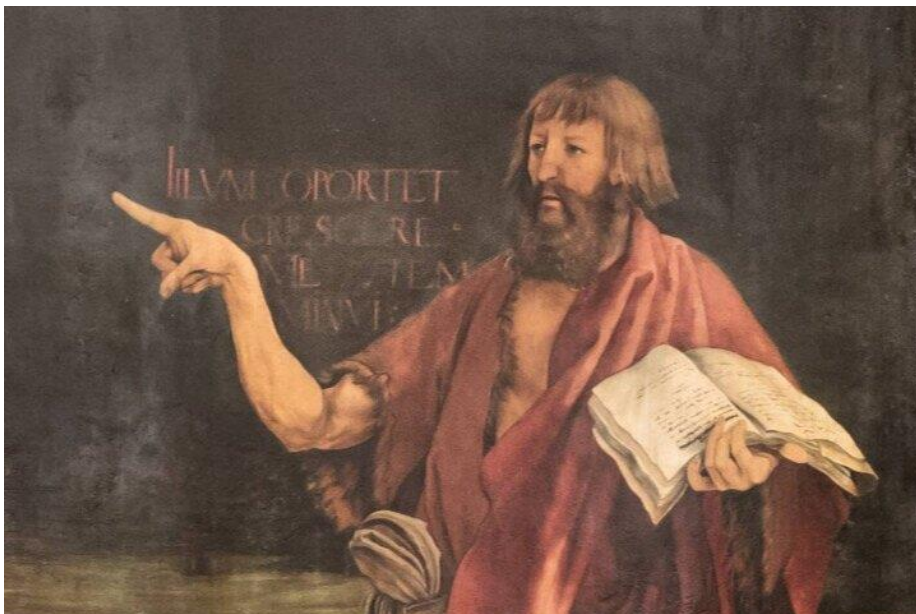
A donation for \$1500 has already been pledged to start the campaign. You are welcome to make your donation online, by cheque, or even in the offering plate marked **A/C appeal**. We will keep you updated as we progress toward our goal of **\$50,000!**

Jim Morgan  
Chair RMC

**Word of the Day:** *As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk. 3: 15-16).*

## Prompts for Reflection

In the gospels, as well as in literature outside the gospels—in the writing of the Jewish historian Josephus, John the Baptist is a man of power, conviction and courage. And yet, what he is best known for is his pointing away from himself, to One who is to come, who is greater than he, who indeed is the salvation of Israel and the world.



- Nick Athanasiadis

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

Telephone: 905-522-9098 Email: [info@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca) [www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)

Central's Copyright license: © CCLI #2886178