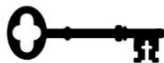




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

March 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Lent Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Call to Worship – Weresch family

Lector – Jean Williams

Greeters – Tom & Ingrid Scott

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Fantasia in D-flat Major*

J. Rheinberger

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Come, Ye Disconsolate*

195 vs. 1&2

*1. Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
come to the mercy seat; fervently kneel;
here bring your wounded hearts; here tell your anguish:
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.*

*2. Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
here speaks the comforter, tenderly saying,
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Refer to Third Sunday in Lent insert

* HYMN – We Praise You, O God

425

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2. We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.

3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

PRAYER 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 - Spirit Of The Living God

400 (see pg. 6)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 63:1-8 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 downstairs HUB area. 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. 166)

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

SERMON: *The Paradox of Power in Weakness*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN - I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

671

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come un to me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast!'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink and live!'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that lifegiving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright?'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Into Thy Gracious Hands*

E. Bullock, Words by H. R. Gamble

*Into Thy gracious hands For all eternity,
With humble faith the Church commends The soul which came from Thee.*

*In the dear blood outpoured, Our sinful souls to gain, Wash it,
we pray Thee, loving Lord, From earthly spot and stain.*

*With Thine own Presence blest, No more from Thee to roam,
O grant unto the labourer rest, And to the traveller Home.*

* 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 - And Can It Be That I Should Gain

352

1. And can it be that I should gain
God's riches through the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?

2. 'Tis mystery all! the immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.

3. He left his Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite his grace,
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off; my heart was free.
I rose, went forth and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free.
I rose, went forth and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my
own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my
own.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Vater unser im Himmelreich* ("Our Father Who Art in Heaven")

J. S. Bach

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!

Spirit of the living God

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD 12 12 8 12

F C F B \flat F C F F/A

1. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the
 2. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all; make us one in

C7/G F B \flat Gm F/C C F B \flat F G G 7

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mould me, fill me,
 heart and mind; make us one in love: hum - ble, car - ing, self - less,

C C7 F C F B \flat F/C C7 F

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me!
 shar - ing. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love!

Words: v.1, Daniel Iverson (1890–1977); v.2, Michael Baughen (1930–) Music: Daniel Iverson (1890–1977)

Words: v. 1, copyright © Birdwing Music, 1935, 1963. All rights reserved. Used by permission of CMC Ltd; v. 2, copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © Birdwing Music, 1935, 1963. All rights reserved. Used by permission of CMC Ltd.

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).

Lent 2025: Join Kate Bowler this lent season: THE HARDEST PART

Life is this strange, tender mix, isn't it? Joy and sorrow, love and loss, heartbreak and hope, all tangled together. This year, embrace Lent as it is – raw, honest, and tender. Let these 40 days be a time to pause, reflect, and find the courage to stay with the hard part, trusting that the good part is still coming. katebowler.com/lent

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.

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



We need A/C units in the nursery, two offices and a meeting room on the main floor.

This is because we have reconfigured our space to welcome new tenants. The income we now receive enables us to offer sacred space for worship, a safe gathering place for the community, and of course, concert space for Music@Central, along with 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 **\$16,159.55** have been received towards the A/C appeal. We will keep you updated as we progress toward our goal of **\$50,000!**

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 Calendar

- | | |
|--|---|
| ~ Sunday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. | Third Sunday of Lent Worship Service |
| ~ Monday, March 24, 7:30 p.m. | Search Committee Meeting (Online) |
| ~ Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. | Central Book Club (Brent Ellis' Home) |
| ~ Thursday, March 27, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. | HOOTC Meals to Go |
| ~ Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| ~ Sunday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. | Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Intergenerational Service of Worship |
| ~ Monday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. - Noon | HOOTC Café |
| ~ Tuesday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. - Noon | Knit & Knatter Group (Guild Room) |
| ~ Friday, April 4, 5:30 p.m. | Youth Night (HUB) |
| ~ Sunday, April 6, 3:00 p.m. | Music@Central: Enchanted Flutes |
| ~ Sunday, April 13, 10:30 p.m. | Palm/Passion Sunday Service of Worship |
| ~ Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. | Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion |
| ~ Friday, April 18 10:30 a.m. | Good Friday Service of Worship and Reflection |
| ~ Friday, April 18 7:00 p.m. | Good Friday Choir Concert: Mozart Requiem |
| ~ Sunday, April 20, 10:30 a.m. | Easter Sunday Service of Worship |
| ~ Sunday, April 27 | Dr. Nick's Retirement Service and Lunch |

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.

Wise and Loving God,

You know all things good for us, and your Holy Spirit leads us in your way. Guide us to the minister that you have prepared to come and serve your people here at Central. Fill us with vision, with energy, and openness as we seek the person you've chosen for us.

We thank you for all those in our midst that you move to lead, contribute to, or enrich the ministries at Central. We thank you for the plans you have for our church community - both known and unknown to us.

Throughout this season of uncertainty and change, give us mutual love for each other, patience in the work that lies ahead, and wisdom to discern. Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit here to move in us and through us, so that we may hear the voice of the person best suited for Central.

Prepare us to receive our new minister with joy and enthusiasm - and may our new minister serve us with equal joy. May their ministry mark a new chapter in Central's story: a chapter of continued vibrancy, of growth, and of renewal in service of the Triune God. Amen

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/>





Holy Week

April 13, 10:30 A.M. Palm/Passion Sunday Service of Worship



For many, the procession of the palms re-enacted by children of our church schools is a vivid and lasting memory of this day. But once you know the whole story of this week, it is hard to see Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem except as set against his passion – betrayal, humiliation and death.

Since about the fourth century, the joy of Christ's triumphal entry has been set in deliberate contrast to the passion narrative. This, the first Sunday in Holy Week, begins the seven days of redemption drama.

April 17, 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, Maundy from the Latin *Mandatum*, meaning commandment. Jesus said, ³⁴*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* ³⁵*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'*



This night is a time to remember Jesus' vision of beloved community – to feed and be fed, to love and be loved. This night, we remember the events of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

April 18 10:30 A.M. Good Friday Service of Worship and Reflection

7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Choir Concert: Central Choir and soloists perform the beloved and passionate Requiem by W. A. Mozart.



Concert presented by the Central Presbyterian Choir and Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Marcus Scholtes. Freewill offering at the door.

On this, a most faithful and a most fateful day in the long history of God's people, we reach the climax in the unfolding drama of the life and ministry of Jesus.

April 20, 10:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Service of Worship

We celebrate the resurrection!

Featuring The Hamilton Brass Quintet

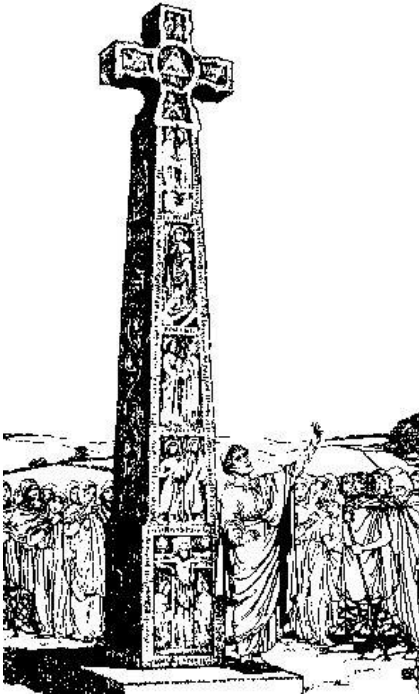
Early on that morning, the first witnesses tell us: their alarm subsided, their courage deepened, their trauma healed, and their amazement grew. They learned how to choose hope.



Word of the day

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Prompts for Reflection



The Dream of the Rood, is one of the earliest English poems to be found in written form. The poem was first discovered on the Ruthwell Cross, a large stone carving dating to the early eighth century.

It is an explicitly Christian poem that attempts to appeal to Anglo-Saxons from a pagan culture.

An unknown poet dreams that he encounters a beautiful tree. It is the "rood," or cross, on which Jesus Christ was crucified. The rood tells the poet how it had been forced to be the instrument of Christ's death, describing how it, too, experienced the nails and spear thrusts along with the savior. But it is now, the dazzling sign of humankind's redemption.

"They forced me through
with darkness, with nails —
Witness in me their woundcraft
the gashings of gnashing spite.
Hardly dare to savage that lot
making us shame, us two together.
I'm all ooze, bedrooled with blood,
sluiced from, juiced from his side —
once this one had flickered forth. (46-49)

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
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

Telephone: 905-522-9098

Email: info@cpchamilton.ca

www.cpchamilton.ca

Central's Copyright license: © CCLI #2886178

Below, is the link to one translation:

<https://oldenglishpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/dream-of-the-rood/>