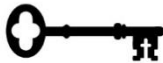




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TO WORSHIP GOD,  
*to grow as disciples of Jesus,*  
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,  
*to take God's love to the world.*

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905-522-9098 | [cpchamilton.ca](http://cpchamilton.ca)  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

April 27, 2025 10:30 a.m.

## Sunday Service of Worship

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Lector – Mark Stupple

Greeters – Pam & Lee Carpenter

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

\* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *The Prayer*

- D. Foster, C. B. Sager, T. Renis, and A. Testa  
Charlton String Quartet

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *We Are God's People*

472 (vs. 1-2)

*We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord, born of the Spirit, established by the word;  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand: oh let us live transparently,  
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.*

*We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord, for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:  
Oh let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God of the past who has fathered and mothered us  
**We are here to thank you.**

God of the future who is always ahead of us  
**We are here to trust you.**

God of the present here in the midst of us  
**We are here to praise you.**

God of life beyond us within us  
**We rejoice in your glorious love.**

*(The Pattern of our Days, Wild Goose, 1996)*

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King;  
your sovereign Lord adore;  
give thanks, O mortals, sing  
and triumph ever more.  
Lift up your heart;  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.

2. For Christ the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when Jesus purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart;  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.

3. His reign can never fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven:  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Saviour given.  
Lift up your heart;  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.

4. He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit  
and bow to his command  
and fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart;  
lift up your voice; rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice.

5. Rejoice in glorious hope,  
for Christ the judge shall come  
and take the faithful up  
to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear  
the archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice.

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 – Let All Things Now Living

338 (see pg. 6)

### GOD SPEAKS TO US

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 READINGS

Acts 17:1-9 (p. 137)

*Paul's regular practice was to speak in synagogues as long as he was allowed. Often those who weren't members of the synagogue, but seekers after God, came to these services. In Thessalonica the popularity of Paul's message provokes a push-back.*

I Thessalonians 2:17 & 3:1-13 (p. 204)

*The young church in Thessalonica was a consequence of Paul's preaching. In his absence, they had faced difficulties and trials and yet had flourished.*

SERMON: *"How Can We Thank God Enough"*

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* HYMN – Glory Be To God The Father

298 (see pg. 7-8)

THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERTORY *A Gaelic Blessing*

J. Rutter

*Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you, Moon and stars pour their healing light on you  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you, Deep peace of Christ to you.*

\* 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

**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 trespasses,**

**As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
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 APPRECIATION FOR THE REV. DR. NICHOLAS ATHANASIADIS

## GOD SENDS US

\* HYMN – God Of Grace And God Of Glory

490

1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown the ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of thls hour,  
for the facing of thls hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us,  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to love and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee,  
that we fail not them nor thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    *You Raise Me Up*

- R. Løvland  
Charlton String Quartet

*The flowers are placed in the Chancel today to the glory of God  
and with gratitude for Dr. Nick Athanasiadis' sojourn with us.*

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!

# Let all things now living

ASH GROVE 12 11 12 11 D with repeat

Descant

2. Ah,

O

C/E F C/E F Dm Bb6 Gm /Bb C (Dm7) C/E

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
 2. By law God en - forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

sun in its or - bit, o - be - dient - ly shine. Ah,

F /A Bb /D Bb F/C C7 F C F C/E

God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and  
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine. The hills and the

the depths of the o - cean pro -

F Dm Bb6 Gm /Bb C /E F /A Bb /D Bb

made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, by guid - ing us on to the  
 moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the depths of the o - cean pro -

Words: Katherine K. Davis (1892-1980) Music: Welsh traditional; harmony, Gerald H. Knight (1908-1979)

Words: copyright © E. C. Schirmer Music Co., 1939, 1966 Music: public domain; harmony, copyright © Royal School of Church Music

# Glory be to God the Father

REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

Descant

3. "Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal!" an - gel choirs their

B♭ /D B♭ /F F/E♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D Gm

1. Glo - ry be to God the Fath - er, glo - ry be to  
 2. Glo - ry to the One who loved us, washed us from each  
 3. "Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal!" an - gel choirs their

hymns pro - long; "Hon - our rich - es, power, do - min - ion!"

F/A F7 B♭ /F /D B♭ Cm Gm/D D

God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it,  
 sin and stain; glo - ry to the One who bought us,  
 hymns pro - long; "Hon - our, rich - es, power, do - min - ion!"

See also: Regent Square 143

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889), alt Music: Henry T. Smart (1813–1879);  
 descant, C.S. Lang (1891–1971)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd.

ech - oes all cre - a - tion's song. Glo - ry, glo - ry,  
 Gm D Gm/Bb Gm F/C C7 F F

God al - might - y, Three - in - One! Glo - ry, glo - ry,  
 raised us up to serve and reign. Glo - ry, glo - ry,  
 ech - oes all cre - a - tion's song. Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry, glo - ry, prais - es to our God be - long.  
 Bb 7 Eb Cm Bb/D Cm/Eb Gm F 7 Bb

glo - ry, glo - ry, while e - ter - nal a - ges run.  
 glo - ry, glo - ry, to the Lamb that once was slain.  
 glo - ry, glo - ry, prais - es to our God be - long.

### Optional Verse

1. Glory be to God our Maker,  
 God Redeemer, holy Son;  
 glory be to God the Spirit,  
 God almighty, Three-in-One!  
 Glory, glory, glory, glory,  
 while eternal ages run.



## TODAY IS THE DAY WE CELEBRATE DR. NICK'S RETIREMENT!



After more than three years at Central as Interim Minister helping us through a period of transition and almost 34 years ministering to various congregations throughout Ontario, Quebec and Alberta, **Dr. Nick is retiring with his last service at Central today!**

Please help us celebrate Nick's exceptional ministry both past and present by joining us today for a delicious luncheon following the service in the church hall.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### **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/)

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).



## Spring BBQ Friday, May 2, 5:30 p.m.

The whole church family is invited for a Spring BBQ on the forecourt!  
If weather permits, we will eat on the front lawn.

Please sign up through the link below by April 30, if you plan to attend, or contact Helena at the church office ([helena@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:helena@cpchamilton.ca)):

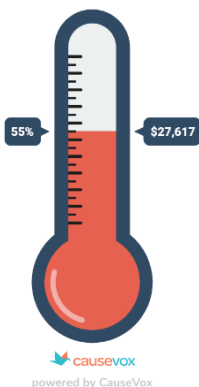
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAIAHR\\_GwffzabDtRURFp9aNkl1ALEqTu72SfgAPD9EASaw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAIAHR_GwffzabDtRURFp9aNkl1ALEqTu72SfgAPD9EASaw/viewform)

### Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Sunday, April 27	<b>Dr. Nick's Retirement Service and Lunch</b>
~ Tuesday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>Knit &amp; Knatter Group</b> (Guild Room)
~ Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Central Book Club</b> (Allan Room)
~ Thursday, May 1, 3:30-5:00 p.m.	<b>Third HOOTC BBQ for 2025</b> (Outside Forecourt)
~ Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Choir Practice</b>
~ Thursday, May 1, 7:30-9:30 p.m.	<b>Small Group Meeting</b> (Elsje's group – Guild Room)
~ Friday, May 2, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Central's Spring BBQ</b>

## A/C Appeal Update – We are over halfway there:

**GOAL: \$50,000**



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 **\$27,617.00** have been received towards the A/C appeal. We will keep you updated as we progress toward our goal of **\$50,000!**

### **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.**

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

**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.



**As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make  
the earth a beautiful garden for the human family.**

Pope Francis



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

[presbyterian.ca](http://presbyterian.ca)

**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/>

## Prompts for Reflection



### ***Word of the Day:***

*How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?*

*(1 Thessalonians 3:9)*

<https://www.creativefabrica.com/product/eternal-flame-gothic-cathedral-stained-glass-windows-8k/>

Paul's letters have a way of engaging us and inviting us to be part of sensitive and transformative relationships, whether sharing joy or sorrow—a mark of Christian community.

"How can we thank God enough for you?" I think we can honestly speak these words to people who make up this congregation we are now. More than ever, we do not take community for granted – not the faith which binds it, not the hope which sustains it, nor the love which renews it. And so, let us continue to give our best, for none of this giving is ever wasted in God's sight.

### **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 Frebold*

*Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma*

*Custodian – David Lewington*

*Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann*

*Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

T: 905-522-9098 E: [info@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca)

[www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)

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