

Chalmers

The United Church of Canada



Christmas Eve

This is the irrational season when love blooms bright and wild.
If Mary'd been filled with reason, there'd have been no room for the Child.
Madeleine L'Engle

10:30 am December 24, 2017

Children: Christmas Craft activities with Hope Yen and Joy Yen.

Hearing Assists and Large Print Bulletins available from Greeters

Song Books **VU** *Voices United* **MV** *More Voices*

Ringers Off electronic devices. Thank you.

For millennia indigenous people have inhabited this land.
We gather in gratitude on the shared territory of the *Anishinaabeg* and
Haudenosee Peoples, as they continue to share their land with us.

Gather

A Christmas Pastorale - Giuseppe Valentini

COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION

One Know you are welcome here.
All **The lights are on. The Spirit is home.**
One Sense the company of others. Feel the mystery awakening.
All **The lights are on. The Spirit is home.**
One Be present to this moment. Be present to these people.
Be present to the Spirit.
All **The lights are on. The Spirit is home.**

stand CAROL VU 60 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Fourth Light of Advent - The Light of Revealing

One The flame catches and surprises the dark.
All **As we hear the Sacred Story anew
May we be caught this day by the great Revelation!**

Communion at the Manger

Come to the Communion Celebration of Christ's Birth

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Missa Brevis – Healey Willan

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus. Holy, Holy, Holy
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. God of Hosts.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.

Heaven and earth are full of your Glory.
Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
Miserere nobis. Have mercy upon us.
Dona nobis pacem. Grant us Peace.

Come forward down the centre aisle to the serving stations.
Return to your seat by the side aisles. Communion is received by **gluten-free bread and grape juice** in individual cups. To receive at your pew, please raise your hand to a server. During the Sharing of Bread and Wine we sing Carols, *Away in a Manger* and other favourites.

The Story

Now, we enter sacred time, time suspended.
When history surrenders to mystery
and we ourselves are taken in and taken up by a love story.
For this, the universe bursts into being.
For this, the galaxies shine - lights strung upon a Christmas cosmos.
For this, supernovas make sacrifice and our sun pours itself out
in the service of life.
For this, the march of life on Earth makes its exuberant procession-
now present in lowing cattle, in a single shining star,
in shepherds and angels, and in proud parents-to a Bethlehem stable.
And on this holy night, no less, does the cosmos coalesce in us
as we take our place on the stage of sacred mystery to celebrate
the point of it all – that comes to us in self-emptying love the moment we
enter the mystery of this Christmas birth.

The Point of the Process from *If Darwin Prayed*, Bruce Sanguin Used by permission.

The Nativity According to Luke

Luke 2: 1 - 20

Rosalie Armstrong, Faye Irving

stand CAROL VU 71 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Katharine Smithrim

In the moontime of the winter, when the sun redly rises,
in the moontime of the winter, when the trees starkly stretch,
then, O Christ, you come: softly as a gently falling snowflake,
with the lusty energy of a newborn boy,
the blood and pain of your coming staining the distant horizon.

In the frost of starlight, when the sun gives way to moon,
in the frost of starlight, when the earth is turned to stone,
then, O Christ, you come: slowly as the rhythm of the seasons,
quickly as the rush of cradling waters, worshipped by the wise,
adored by the humble, the ecstatic joy of your coming
heralding songs of peace.

Into the world of refugee and soldier,
the soles of your feet have touched the ground.
Into the world of banker and beggar,
the soles of your feet have touched the ground.
Into the world of Jew and Arab
the soles of your feet have touched the ground.

Walk with us, saviour of the poor, be a light on our way,
travel beside the weary, fill the brokenhearted with hope
and heal the nations, that all may walk in the light of the glory of God.

Prayer poem from *The Green Heart of the Snowdrop*, Kate McIlhagga.

Wild Goose Publications 2004. Used by permission

Christmas Gifts

THE OFFERING

What Sweeter Music – John Rutter

The Christ Light

One O Source of all being, O Primal Fire of the cosmos,
All **Ignite the flame of Christ!**
One O Divine Spark, O Flaming Pillar, illumine our way to the manger.
All **Jesus is born. Christ has appeared.**
Angels sing in the earth! Creation shouts for joy!
One Look deeply into the luminous Light of Christ.

Nativity Tension

Rev. Drew Strickland

Illumine

Sharing The Light Of Christ

Choir Carol *Before the Marvel of This Night*

VU 40

Jesus, Light of the World, Cosmic Christ

Readings from Colossians and John

seated CAROL VU 67 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

v. 1 German
vv. 1 - 3 English

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you give and receive love generously.
May this love echo in your heart
like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.
May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.
May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem
be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.
May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.
May it be a foundation of courage for you
when times of distress occupy your inner land.
May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children
be awakened within you.
May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation
of whatever you too easily take for granted.
May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened
as you gather around the table of festivity and nourishment.
May you keep your eye on the Star within you and
trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and
visit the One who offers you peace.
May you bring this Peace into our world.
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers you Peace.

Joyce Rupp

Sung Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Recessional, *In dulci jubilo* – F.W. Zachau



Kindly leave your  in the basket at the door

A Blessed Christmas to You from the Chalmers Community

Talents Shared

Our thanks to:

Greeters: TBA

Liturgical Animation Team: Jan Elliott, Katie Henderson, Faye Irving, Rosalie Armstrong, Katharine Smithrim (Chair), David Melhorn-Boe, Rev. Drew Strickland

Sound Tech: Dan Bergeron

Counter: Murray Anderson

Hospitality: PreService: Heather Faris PostService: Barb & Al Fletcher

Today

- **3 pm: Nativity Play rehearsal.** Please come to receive your costumes and run through the nativity play.
- **4 pm: Christmas Nativity Play and Carols for all ages**
- **7 pm: Christmas Eve Service**
Readings and Carols at Sydenham Street United Church.
- **2018 Offering Envelopes** are at the back of the sanctuary for pick-up. Please notify the Church Office if yours are not there, or if you would like to have Offering Envelopes or give through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Note: Some Envelope numbers have changed.

Sunday After Christmas Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

- **10:30 am:** Carol Service of Worship followed by a Congregational Luncheon to celebrate the many things that come together on this day, one being that it is the last Sunday with the Rev. Drew Strickland, as our Minister.

Epiphany Sunday Jan. 7, 2018

- **10:30 am:** Chalmers and Sydenham Street United Church congregations begin worshipping together at Chalmers with Dr. Ruth Wilson of SSUC preaching.

Jan. 9, 2018

- **11:30 am:** The next luncheon meeting of our **Two Church Lunch and Learn Group** (formerly the Joint Men's Group but now a non-gender-specific group) will be at Mino's Village Restaurant, 1762 Princess Street. Our guest will be Mathew Deir, President, Dragonfly Information Technology Inc. The title of his talk is "Being an Entrepreneur - The Dragonfly Story". *Everyone* from Sydenham St. U.C. and Chalmers is invited



Poinsettias are donated by Blaney's Florist with thanks.

Emergency Pastoral Care Christmas Day to December 31st

Rev. Drew Strickland 613-546-3263 (ext. 226) cell 613-876-0118
<drew.strickland@chalmersunitedchurch.com>

Year End Thank Offerings

Donations to Chalmers United Church can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through *Canada Helps* on our website or by *Canada Post*. **2017 donations must be submitted before December 31st**

Staff

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from the Chalmers Community of Faith.

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LiveOnline at chalmersunitedchurch.com Sundays 10:30am

Church House Office is closed. Reopens Tues. Jan. 2, 2018

