

# CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



DECEMBER 6, 2020

GUEST MINISTER REV. DR. PAUL CURRIE

“READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS YET?”

212 Barrie St. Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3K3

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Pre-recorded Services are posted at 6 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We invite you to listen online at a time that you choose to set aside for worship and meditation. <https://chalmersunitedchurch.org/weekly-worship/>

Services in our Sanctuary are live streamed with a recording subsequently posted on Sunday afternoons on our YouTube channel.

**Today's Service** was pre-recorded and posted on our YouTube channel.

**Next Sunday, Dec. 13,** there will be a **Service of Carols and Lessons** in our Sanctuary. It will also be live-streamed on our YouTube channel

The Chalmers Church House Office remains closed.  
Staff can be reached by telephone and email.

For Rentals/room bookings please email  
office@chalmersunitedchurch.com

- **For bulletin materials please use:**  
**bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com**  
Please send announcements by end of day Monday, or late editions by end of day Tuesday for inclusion the following Sunday.
- Please send announcements you wish made verbally to:  
**bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com**  
and Al Fletcher: afletcher8@cogeco.ca

**Chalmers can accept e-Transfers for donations** by using: envelopesecretary@chalmersunitedchurch.com. Some may find this method easier when making donations. When using e-Transfer, please allocate where you wish your funds placed, in the "Message". Undesignated funds will be allocated to the General Fund.

**Song Books are:**

VU *Voices United* and MV *More Voices*

**Chalmers United Church**

is a community of God's people who embrace Christian tradition and encourage new ideas. We gather to celebrate God's love; search and be challenged; nurture and be nurtured.

We seek to: welcome all who come; engage all ages in Ministry; be guided by faith in daily life; and be a compassionate, hopeful presence in the world.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. (1997)



**Bold Text** indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Conditor Alme Siderum* - FRC Clarke

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

### INTROIT

*Hope Is a Star*

VU 7, vs 1 & 2

**1** Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

#### Refrain:

when God is a child there's joy in our song.  
the last shall be first and the weak will be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

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

Words: Brian Wren 1885 Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987 © 1989 Hope Pub. Co.  
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### CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

**God will make a way through the wilderness.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

**All people shall see it together.**

The mouth of the Lord has spoken;

**God is preparing to do a new thing.**

Come, let us worship our God,

who is coming into our world in a new way!

## CENTERING PRAYER

God of hope,  
you call us from the exile of our iniquity  
- **be with us as we physically distance, socially isolate** -  
with the good news of restoration;  
you build a highway through the wilderness;  
- **strengthen scientists and care givers** -  
you come to us and bring us home,  
- **never leave us.** -  
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,  
- **vaccines, cures, therapies, tender loving care** -  
made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### HYMN VU 18 *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
The lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

Words: James Lewis Milligan 1925 Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft 1938 © 1938 Henry Hugh Bancroft, Eldred Bancroft, Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

## A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD.

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, Sacred Mystery,  
greater than words can express;  
whose love for us and all creation  
exceeds our capacity to imagine,  
open our hearts and minds. Amen.

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11

Mark 1: 1 - 8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN VU 61** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega,  
Christ the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are and have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

2 At his word the worlds were framèd.  
He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the moon and burning sun,  
evermore and evermore.

3 O that birth for ever blessèd!  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

4 This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore.

5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

6 Christ, to thee with God most blessèd,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be,  
honour, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.

Words: Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius ca. 405, trans. John Mason Neale 1851, alt.  
Music: plainsong melody, ca. 12<sup>th</sup> C. arr. Healey Willan 1933 © arr. 1933 Estate of Healey  
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#### **MEDITATION**

*Ready for the Good News Yet?*

Rev. Dr. Paul Currie

### **COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE**

#### **SHARING OF OUR GIFTS**

Offerings gratefully received online through  
Canada Helps or by Canada Post  
or now by e-transfer to:

envelopesecretary@chalmersunitedchurch.com.

When using e-Transfer, please allocate where  
you wish your funds placed, in the "Message".

Undesignated funds will be allocated to the General Fund.

## PASTORAL PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### COMMISSIONING

Go now: wait and work for the coming of the day of God.  
In the desolate places prepare a straight path for the Lord.  
Lead lives of holiness and godliness,  
strive to be found at peace,  
and speak freely of the Lord's comfort and promise.

#### BENEDICTION

And may God our shepherd gather you in loving arms;  
May Christ Jesus reconcile justice and peace within you;  
And may the Holy Spirit enliven you into the fullness of Hope.  
Amen.

#### CHORAL BLESSING

*Jubilate Deo* - Michael Praetorius

VU 247

#### POSTLUDE

*Gottes Sohn ist kommen* - J.S. Bach

## THANK YOU TO ALL TALENTS SHARED

**Guest Minister** **The Rev. Dr. Paul Currie** recalls preaching at Chalmers shortly after his ordination in 1977, to celebrate Chalmers' sponsorship of him as a Candidate for Ministry. While at Chalmers, Paul sang in the choir, and enjoyed the ministries of Stan Lucyk and Margaret Quigley. His father, the late Dr. Eoin Currie, and his Centenarian mother, Louise, were also active at Chalmers in those years. He graduated from Queens Theological College, and served a number of pastoral charges, including one in Manitoba and various places across Ontario, including Kingston's Edith Rankin Memorial. He retired to live in Bath in 2017. His ongoing education included a D. Min. from Detroit's Ecumenical Theological Seminary, and Mediation and Conflict Management certification from Conrad Grebel in Waterloo. He, and his wife Deborah, a KGH Nursing Alumna, still enjoy singing in their church choir.

**Interim Organist** Aurora Dokken

**Hymn Choir** Rob Bruce, Margot Craft, Joan Egnatoff, Bill Egnatoff,  
Barb Fletcher, Al Fletcher, Juliet Milsome, Janice  
Moncrieff, Anja Troje

**Sound & Media Tech** Brigitta Holzschuh, Catie Doane

**Technical Chair** Nick Steinberg

## **Announcement**

We were saddened to learn earlier this week of the sudden death of Douglas Smith, a longstanding member of Chalmers. We remember with gratitude his dedication and faithful service to our Congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah, Fiona, and David and all the other members of the family. Sunday afternoon funeral arrangements can be found in the Saturday Whig Standard.

## **TODAY Sunday, Dec. 6**

- **12pm: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** There will be an Annual General Meeting by Zoom and teleconference to approve the following: the second six month budget from July to December 2020, the 2019 Review Engagement Report, the Annual Report 2019-2020 and the actions of CCE from May 2019 to November 2020. Monika Holzschuh has agreed to host and will start letting people in at 11:30 am. The Zoom invitation was sent out on Wednesday December 02. If you did not receive the invitation, please contact Monika Holzschuh: holzschu@queensu.ca

## **Tues. Dec. 8**

- **The Two Church Lunch and Learn Group will meet** by ZOOM on Dec. 8, gathering at 1:00 for announcements and chat, with the speaker starting at 1:15. Our speaker will be Kim Garrison, member of Princess Street United Church and chair of the Board of Trustees until earlier this year. The title of Kim's talk is "Tearing off the Band-aid" about the transformation at Princess St United Church. Everyone from Sydenham St. and Chalmers and your friends are invited to attend. If you wish to attend this event, please contact Meikle Turner at 613-542-7744 or meikle\_irish@yahoo.com. This session is being held on Zoom and the event will obviously not include lunch. Please let Meikle know if you plan to attend. Meikle will send you the link to the Zoom session shortly before December 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be no charge for attending this Lunch & Learn session. Our next Lunch and Learn meeting will be on January 12, 2021. Topic is "Basic Income Guarantee".
- **4pm:** CCE will meet by Zoom.

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- **The Blessing Box is in need of the following items please:** toothbrushes, granola bars and toilet paper. If you are able to donate these items, please contact Jan Trites 613-547-0480 or arrange a drop off time with Carol at carolsleeth@chalmersunitedchurch.com. Thank you all for continuing to support this vital ministry.  
**Donations by cheque or e-transfer** to the Chalmers Benevolent Fund are gratefully accepted; with Covid the need is even greater this year.