

# CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 2022 10:30 AM



REV. JOHN SUK  
"THE LAUGHTER OF GOD"

## **Covid Precautions**

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.  
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing still continues in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

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

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen," (Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming) - Johannes Brahms)*

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 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.

#### CENTERING PRAYER *(sung)*

**HYMN VU 1** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v.6

O come, O Dayspring, from on high  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **R**

#### Refrain:

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

Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca 9<sup>th</sup> century, trans. John Mason Neale 1851  
© the Church Pension Fund Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody, arr. Healey Willan © arr. Concordia  
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#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- One:** Today we light the candle of **joy**.  
(Light Candle)
- Two:** God promises us that one day, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give praise to the Lord, call upon his name; sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things.'"
- All:** **Let this be known throughout the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, for the Holy One of Israel is among you.**

**HYMN MV 33** *Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy*

v. 4

Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Hallelujah forever more!

Words and Music: Cameroon 2007 © United Church of Canada  
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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(said in unison)*

**Peace to all beings  
Whether near or far  
Known or unknown  
Born or yet to be born.**

**Peace to all creatures  
Within and beyond the imagination  
In the world of ideas  
And in the world of nature.**

**Finally, in this season of Advent  
May we all experience  
The peace that passes all understanding.  
Amen.**

**CAROL VU 59** *Joy to the World*

**1** Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing

**2** Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:

let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**3** No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground:

he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,

far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Word: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.

Music: attrib. George Frederic Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836

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## A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**One:** Holy One, Sacred Mystery, whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, open our hearts and minds.

**All:** Amen.

### READING

David Spooner

Genesis 17: 15 - 19

Genesis 18: 9 - 15

Genesis 21: 1 - 6

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Amen.**

### MESSAGE

Rev. John Suk

*The Laughter of God*

**CAROL** *I've Got Joy, Joy, Joy*

v. 1-3

**1** I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,

Down in my heart,

Down in my heart.

Down in my heart;

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,

Down in my heart,

Down in my heart to stay.

**2** I've got the peace that passeth understanding,

Down in my heart,

Down in my heart.

Down in my heart;

I've got the peace that passeth understanding,

Down in my heart,

Down in my heart to stay.

3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
Down in my heart,  
Down in my heart.  
Down in my heart;  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
Down in my heart,  
Down in my heart to stay.

Words: George W. Cooke

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism: an African America ecumenical hymnal #433, 1925

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**CAROL VU 43** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Refrain:**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.**

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **R**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

Words: John Wesley Work II 1907 Music: African-American spiritual 19<sup>th</sup> century,

arr. United Reformed Church (UK) © United Reformed Church, Oxford University Press

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# COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

## OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

### DOXOLOGY

**HYMN VU 543**    *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

v. 1

**1** We give thee but thine own,  
what e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O God, from thee.

Words: William Walsham How 1858  
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### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed One, our Mother and our Father holy is your name.  
May your love be enacted in the world.  
May your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For all that we do in your love,  
and all that your love brings to birth,  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**CAROL VU 44**    *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**1** It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold,  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,  
to hear the angels sing.

4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears 1849 Music: Richard Storrs Willis 1850 1937  
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#### BENEDICTION

#### CHORAL BENEDICTION

**HYMN VU 38** *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
**Refrain only:**  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: Fre. Trans. James Chadwick 1880 Music: Fre. Carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen  
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#### POSTLUDE

*Christmas Piece No. 1* (from *Six Christmas Pieces*, op. 72) - Felix Mendelssohn

## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

**Minister**      **Rev John Suk** is the recently retired minister of Lawrence Park Community Church (UCC) in Toronto. Before that he had a varied career as a minister, journalist, seminary professor, and president of the Institute for Christian Studies—a graduate school of philosophy affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology. John is the author of *Not Sure: A Pastor's Journey from Faith to Doubt*. (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 2011). He is married to Irene Oudyk-Suk, has two married children, and three grands. Irene is a practicing Couples Therapist. They live in Millhaven.

<b>Co-Liturgist</b>	Linda Steinberg
<b>Organist</b>	Juliet Milsome
<b>Hymn Singers</b>	Members of Chalmers Choir
<b>Reader</b>	David Spooner
<b>Media Techs</b>	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
<b>Technical Chair</b>	Nick Steinberg
<b>Refreshments</b>	Rosalie Spooner



The link for Chalmers YouTube channel can also be found on the home page of the Chalmers website  
[www.chalmersunitedchurch.org](http://www.chalmersunitedchurch.org)

After the service, you are invited to share refreshments and conversation.

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