

# CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 2022 4 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE

## **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

*Gloria*

trad. French carol, *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*

### 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.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather on this winter evening, full of anticipation and excitement.

**All: Let us open our hearts and minds to receive the good news the angels delivered on that special night so long ago.**

One: May we be filled with wonder and love as we hear once again the Christmas story.

**All: Let the words spark in us a new hope as we allow the spirit of Christ to fill our hearts.**

#### CENTERING PRAYER

**All: Advent, the season of preparation is nearly over.  
Our waiting is nearly finished.  
God, we ask you to bless our time together.  
Make us ready for Christmas.  
Make us ready to receive your light in our lives.**

## A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

### 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 earth! 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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### ADVENT WREATH

- One: As we light the candle of hope, we are reminded that hope is alive in our world. May hope fill our hearts in a way that sustains us.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with hope.**
- One: As we light the candle of peace, may we feel peace in our hearts, peace between family and friends, peace between nations and peace between human beings and all of creation.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with peace.**
- One: As we light the candle of joy may we seek out opportunities to bring joy to ourselves and to others.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with joy.**
- One: As we light the candle of love we are reminded of the love that surrounds us: the love of family, friends and the love of God.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with love.**
- One: As we light the Christ candle we remember the birth of Jesus, so long ago, the light of the world.
- All: **Amen**

### STORY – PART 1

CAROL VU 60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 4

4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

### STORY – PART 2

HYMN VU 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High* v. 1

1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly sing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

### STORY – PART 3

CAROL VU 69 *Away in a Manger*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Words: Author Unknown Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1895, arr. Desmond Hassell ©  
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### STORY – PART 4

**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  
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## COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

### OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

*Gloria Deo* - David Ouchterlony

soloist: Janice Moncrieff

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**LORD'S PRAYER** written by Janice Moncrieff

Our healer who is everywhere,  
You are most holy.  
May your love surround us.  
Guide us to make restorative choices,  
Today, tomorrow and for all eternity.  
Provide us with what we need to nourish our bodies, our minds and  
our spirits.  
Forgive us for having caused hurt to others.  
Teach us to forgive those who have hurt us as we build our capacity  
for compassion and understanding.  
Protect us and keep us safe.  
To you we give all glory, honour and praise.  
Always.  
May it be so.

**CAROL VU 67** *Silent Night, Holy Night (Stille Nacht)*

**1** Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**2** Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar;  
heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!"

**3** Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818, Eng. Trans. John Freeman Young 1863 et al.

Music: Franz Xavier Grueber 1818

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**BLESSING**



## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

### **Family Service Planners**

Heather Faris  
Monika Holzschuh  
Gerald McGrath  
Juliet Milsome  
Janice Moncrieff

### **Organist**

Juliet Milsome

### **Hymn Singers**

Members of Chalmers Choir

### **Story Teller**

Janice Moncrieff

### **Media Techs**

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

### **Technical Chair**

Nick Steinberg



The Flowers in the Sanctuary are in  
loving memory of  
*our parents*  
*from the*  
*Houlden and Yen families*



**To submit materials for the bulletin**

please use: [bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto: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 verbal announcements**

to: [bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto:bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com)

and Linda Steinberg [hpsesp14@gmail.com](mailto:hpsesp14@gmail.com)

**At 10:30 join us in person at Chalmers or watch live-streamed** on Chalmers' YouTube channel.

The service will also be posted later to the same channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwjzP2Q>

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)

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The Poinsettia  
has been donated by  
**Blaney's Florists Ltd.**  
with our Thanks.