

# CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



SUNDAY, FEB. 12, 2023 10:30 AM

THE REV. DR. PAUL G. CURRIE

"CHOOSE LIFE"

## **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

*On Song 34: Wake the Song of Joy and Gladness*

*Op. 105, No. 1 - Charles Villiers Stanford*

### 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.

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

**All: May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 119)

One: O God, you are righteous

**All: Transform us by your Word!**

One: Your judgments are upright

**All: Transform us by your Word!**

One: Your precepts are unforgettable

**All: Transform us by your Word!**

One: Give us understanding and we will live

**All: Re-form us, reconcile us, transform us by your Word!**

#### CENTERING PRAYER

**All: Divine Gardener, you give growth to our seeds  
and to the towering forest trees;  
you raise to abundant life that which seems dead.  
Teach us to choose blessing  
and life rather than death,  
so that we may walk blamelessly, seeking you  
through reconciliation with all of your children.  
Amen.**

**HYMN VU 202** *O Breath of Life*

**1** O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power;  
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

**2** O Wind of God, come bend us, break us  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then, in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore - for this we plead.

**3** O Breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your church in every part.

Words: Elizabeth A. P. Head ca 1914, music: Mary Jane Hammond,  
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## 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.**

### READINGS

Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20

1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN VU 248** *When Long Before Time and the Worlds were Begun*

**1** When long before time and the worlds were begun,  
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,  
and even our Maker had only a dream...

2 the silence was broken when God sang the Song,  
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,  
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,  
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

3 The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,  
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;  
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

4 Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,  
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,  
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,  
our God-Is-with-Us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;  
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory for ever, through life and through death.

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**SERMON** the Rev. Dr. Paul G. Currie  
*Choose Life!*

## COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

### OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

#### DOXOLOGY

**HYMN VU 541** *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674 Music: Genevan Psalter 1551  
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## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### HYMN VU 703 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.
- 2 There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.
- 3 In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

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### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*On Old One Hundredth: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

- Healy Willan

## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

**Minister**

Paul is no stranger to the Chalmers Community. His roots here go back to singing in the Bass Section of the Choir in the seventies. His calling in ministry has included both St. Matthews and Edith Rankin Memorial here in Kingston, along with pastorates in Manitoba and elsewhere in Ontario. Paul resides in Bath with his wife Debbie.

**Co-Liturgist**

Linda Steinberg

**Reader**

Charmaine Puszkas

**Organist**

Aurora Dokken

**Hymn Singers**

Members of Chalmers Choir

**Media Techs**

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

**Refreshments**

Heather Faris, Charmaine Puszkas

**Counters**

Murray Anderson, Heather Faris



**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/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwj2P2Q>

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.

**Chalmers United Church**

212 Barrie St. Kingston, K7L 3K3

**t** 613-546-3263 x 221

**e** [office@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto:office@chalmersunitedchurch.com)

**w** [www.chalmersunitedchurch.com](http://www.chalmersunitedchurch.com)

The Rev. David King, Chalmers' Administrator

**e** [david@narrowgate.ca](mailto:david@narrowgate.ca)