

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

LENT 2

REV. NANCY CLARKE

"NICODEMUS"

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

Prelude - William H. Harris

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

One: In Lent, we seek to be reconciled with those who feel hurt.

All: We wish to restore trust that has been strained.

One: We worship God who gives strength and courage.

All: Come Let us worship God together.

CENTERING PRAYER

O Beckoning God, you plant in us urgent questions and wonderings that lead us to you. You gather us into your Church. We are speakers and thinkers, travelers and builders. You make room for us and challenge us to be your beloved community. Bless us so we may be a blessing in your world.
Amen

HYMN VU 371 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Words and Music: Clara H. School 1895

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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Enlightening Spirit, we get discouraged in seeking your truth.
In the midst of our bewilderment, clear our eyes. Grant us
courage and strengthen our determination. Surprising Spirit,
show us a better way. Amen**

READINGS

Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17

John 3: 1 - 17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 625 *I Feel the Winds of God Today*

1 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

3 If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift;
I feel the winds of God today,
today my sail I lift.

Words: Jessie Adams 1907, alt. © 1933 National Adult Scholl Organisation
Music: English and Irish Trad. Melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906
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SERMON

Nicodemus

Rev. Nancy Clarke

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 Used
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OFFERING PRAYER

**O Lord our God, let us give generously of our time, talent and
treasure to further your work in our community. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN VU 651 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Words: Welsh, William Williams 1745, English Trans, Peter Williams
and William Williams 1771

Music: John Hughes 1905 by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God be in my head, and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Amen.

Words: H. Walford Davies 1910 – Students' Hymnal © Oxford
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POSTLUDE

Andante quasi allegretto - G. Merkel

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister

Rev Nancy Clarke is originally from London, Ontario. She graduated from Queen's Theological College and was ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1987. Her first pastoral charge was near Truro, Nova Scotia. In Ontario she has ministered at the Wooler-Stockdale Pastoral Charge near Trenton, the Portland-Elgin Pastoral Charge, at Grace United Church in Sydenham, at St. Matthew's United Church, Kingston and was the Pastoral Care Minister at Chalmers United Church (September 2011 – June 2017 and April 2018 – September 2018). Nancy served the Roblin-Enterprise United Church Pastoral Charge (October 1, 2016 – April 19, 2022). She is currently filling in as Sunday pulpit supply in the Kingston area. She is married to the Anglican Archdeacon Rev. Bill Clarke, who is the minister at St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Kingston. They have 2 adult sons, a daughter-in-law and a young granddaughter.

Reader

Charmaine Puszkas

Co-Liturgists

Linda Steinberg

Organist

Juliet Milsome

Hymn Singers

Members of Chalmers Choir

Media Techs

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

Refreshments

Heather Faris/ Mike Hartlin, Shannon Royster

Counters

Murray Anderson, Joan Simeon

Flowers in the sanctuary today
are placed by Barbara and Al Fletcher
in loving memory of

*the Horton and
Fletcher families*





To submit materials for the bulletin 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 verbal announcements to:
bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com
and Linda Steinberg 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

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

Chalmers United Church

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