

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



SUNDAY, OCT. 15, 2023 10:30 AM

REV. DR. JOHN SUK

"RELIGIOUS? OR SPIRITUAL?"

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

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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 not 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 on *Down Ampney*
(*Come Down O Love Divine* VU 367) – Henry G. Ley

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

The lands on which we are gathering today are the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of the Huron-Wendat, Metis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We deeply respect the many generations of people who have cared for this land and whose spiritualities, teachings and ways of knowing are closely tied to it. We seek to build right relations with these Peoples, to learn from them and to live together on this land with respect and gratitude.

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.**

HYMN VU 37 *Gloria*

Gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria,
alleluia, alleluia!

Music: trad. Liturgical setting Music: Jacques Berthier, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987
Music © 1978, 1980, 1981, 1987 Jeeva Sam Les Presses de Taizé (France)
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CALL TO WORSHIP

Come children of God.
Young, and old.
Come with your hopes,
your dreams,
your convictions and
doubts.
Morning has broken, and so
we will listen for the divine whisper
and sing of faith, justice, and love!

CENTERING PRAYER

One: God
It was really hot this last month
Hotter than we like
 But Fall has arrived
 The leaves are rainbow wild
 And we are with friends.

**All: Our prayer, this morning,
Is that
Whether we love it humid and hot or not
Whether we are struggling with family issues or worried about
the way the world is going**

One: Our prayer
is that
 Here
 Among these people
We may always find
 In season and out
 good friends
 to walk with
While we enjoy the gift of life.

All: Amen

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HYMN VU 409 *Morning has Broken*

1 Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from Heaven,
like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 Ours is the sunlight!
Ours is the morning
Born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, Music: Gaelic melody 1982 © The Church Pension Fund
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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Before we open scripture this morning, we pray for relief from:

**All: All terrorism, warfare, and violence,
all groundless fears,
all prejudices
all false virtues, and
any sense that we are always right.**

One: As we read and listen, may we sense
God's haunting presence.

**All: And after, inspire us to human love and kindness,
at least a fumbling faith, and a reckless tendency towards
grace. Amen.**

READING

Acts 6: 1 - 6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John Suk

Religious? Or Spiritual?

HYMN VU 378 *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Hast you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar and your love the flame.

Words: George Croly 1854 alt.
Music: Frederick C. Atkinson 1870, desc. C. David Cameron 1994
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COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

DOXOLOGY

HYMN VU 540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving*
Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Words: anonymous Music: attrib. Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra 1715,
adapt. Henry John Gauntlett 1861
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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.

HYMN VU 606 *In Christ There is no East or West* tune: VU344 St Peter

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, peoples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north:
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Words: John Oxenham 1908, alt.

Music: African-American spiritual, adap. & harm – Harry T. Burleigh 1939

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN VU 424 *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

1 May the God of hope go with us every day,,
filling all our lives with love and joy ad peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world resorted, to human life renewed. **R**

Words: v.1 Alvin Schutmaat 1984, v. 2 Fred Kaan 1993

Music: Argentine folk melody © 1993 Hope Pub. Co.

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POSTLUDE

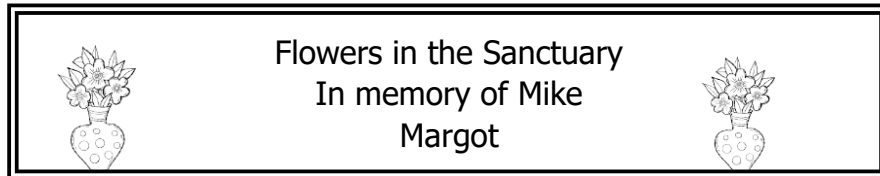
Gavotte (organ solo from a Concerto) – Matthew Camidge (1758 – 1844)

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Rev. Dr. 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.

Reader Heather Faris
Co-Liturgist Janice Moncrieff
Organist Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers Members of Chalmers Choir
Counter Mike Hartlin
Media Techs Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments Heather Faris

After the service you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship in MacCallum Hall.



To submit materials for the bulletin please use:
bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com and Linda Steinberg
hpsesp14@gmail.com.

Please send announcements by end of day Monday, or late editions by end of day Tuesday for inclusion the following Sunday.

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