

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR
THY HOMELESS NEIGHBOUR
THY MUSLIM NEIGHBOUR
THY BLACK NEIGHBOUR
THY GAY NEIGHBOUR
THY TRANS NEIGHBOUR
THY IMMIGRANT NEIGHBOUR
THY JEWISH NEIGHBOUR
THY CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOUR
THY ATHEIST NEIGHBOUR
THY ADDICTED NEIGHBOUR

SUNDAY, OCT. 29, 2023 10:30 AM

REV. IAN R. MACKAY

"FOR THE LOVE 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 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

Minuet - G.F. Handel, arr. by S. Drummond Wolff (1978)

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: The psalmist declares, "O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me. Let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy." With grateful hearts we come to the altar of God and lift up our hearts with the light and truth of God's love in Christ shining brightly before us.

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)
G.I.A. Pub Inc Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.
The One we call God is beyond human description.
- All: **God is more than we can ever imagine.**
We sense God's presence when we gather to worship.
- One: We come in awe to bring our hymns of praise.
The Creator of all things has given us life.
- All: **We are amazed by the wonders around us.**
We feel God's presence as we sing, praise and offer thanks.
- One: We are summoned by One who is just and merciful.
The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.
- All: **How amazing that God chooses us as messengers!**
We know God is with us as we worship and work for God's purposes.

CENTERING PRAYER

- All: **Appear to us here, O God, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you, but we know that a god we could see would only be a tiny part of you whose Spirit fills all time and space. We want you to have a face like ours and we see your face in Jesus, and sometimes in each other. We want to be certain that our decisions and actions are right, but often it is only after the fact that we realize you were with us. O God, we want to be open to all you are making known to us now. Amen.**

HYMN VU 265 *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*

- 1 Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.
- 2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let waters fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.
- 3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.
- 4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

Words: Jeffrey W. Rowthorn 1974 Music: adapt. from Franz Joseph Haydn 1798
© 1979 The Hymn Society Hope Pub. Co.
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Eternal God, open our hearts and souls and minds to your love that surrounds us and seeks a dwelling place in us. May our lives honour you and display the power of your love to the world.
Amen.

READINGS

1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8

Matthew 22: 34 - 46

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN **VU 504** *How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord?*

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word,
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are over all
and will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear,
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

3 We mark your saints, how they become
in hindrances more sure,
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, here, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon --
all you endeavoured done.

Words: Fred Pratt Green 1981, Words © 1982 Hope Pub. Co.

Music: C. Hubert H. Parry 1888 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

SERMON

Rev. Ian R. Mackay

For the Love of God

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

tune: Hyfrydol #333

Grant us courage in our witness
To the gospel, day by day.
Help us live its careful message
As we follow Jesus' way.
May we gladly nurse your children
Toward the health that you intend,
Showing kindness and compassion
Your dominion to extend.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal your love. Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is steadfast. Enable us to grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with you. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

HYMN VU 304 *O God, Beyond All Face and Form* tune 322 Melita

1 O God, beyond all face and form,
you willed it that creation's night
should blaze, and chaos still its storm,
and birth a universe of light.
All things below, all things above
are formed of your eternal love.

2 The glory of the galaxies,
the beauty of a baby's hand,
the thundering of restless seas,
the glory of the forest's stand;
All things below, all things above
are formed of your eternal love.

3 You gave our race both form and name,
and love for us was your intent.
Then to a woman's womb love came,
and on a cross was wholly spent.
All things below, all things above
are formed of your eternal love.

4 Of this great love, all loves are born,
of self, of neighbour, and of earth.
By love shall night be turned to morn,
and death shall never conquer birth.
All things below, all things above
are formed of your eternal love.

Words: Herbert O'Driscoll 1989 Words: 1993 Herbert O'Driscoll
Music: tune: John Bacchus Dykes © 1985 J.A. Fetter
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

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 and 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 restored, to human life renewed. **R**

Words: v.1 Alvin Schutmaat 1984, v. 2 Fred Kaan 1993
Music: Argentine folk melody © 1993 Hope Pub. Co.
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

POSTLUDE

Menuet gothique (from *Suite gothique*) - L. Boellmann

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Rev. Ian R. Mackay has been an ordained Minister of the United Church for 50 years having served pastorates in northern Manitoba (Flin Flon), south-western Ontario (London and Chatham), eastern Ontario (Edith Rankin Memorial, 1983-1993) and Montreal (St. Lambert, 1994-2010). In their retirement years, he and his wife, Jane live near Verona where they regularly attend and offer services to Trinity United Church. They have 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. Two of the families live on the west coast, in the Seattle area and in New Westminster, and their youngest son lives in Halifax. This alone can keep them active, travelling to both sides of the country! They also enjoy cycling, but only for much shorter distances and close to home!

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

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
hpsep14@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

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

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

212 Barrie St. Kingston, K7L 3K3

t 613-546-3263 x 221

e office@chalmersunitedchurch.com

w www.chalmersunitedchurch.com