

## CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REV. DR. DON MISENER

"EXPERIENCES THAT AWAKEN SPIRITUAL REALITY"

### 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 is still encouraged in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

**Bold Text** indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

All: *Carol Singing*

### 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.

*Prepare ye from Godspell*

Singers: Janice Moncrieff, Margot Craft

From the Musical Production *Godspell* © 1971 by the Herald Square Music Co. and New Cadenza Music Corp. Words and Music: Stephen Schwartz

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brigitta and Monika Holzschuh



But the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign

for you; you will find a child wrapped in bonds of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:19-12). The third candle of Advent symbolizes **JOY**. This candle reminds us of the joy of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men arrived. This candle is called the **Shepherds candle**, and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

**HYMN VU 6** *A Candle is Burning*

**3** A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Word: Sandra Dean 1986 © 1986 Sandra Dean

Music: James R. Murray 1887 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

**ADVENT PRAYER**

**All:** We praise you O God for your Son, Jesus.  
He is "Emmanuel" -the hope we celebrate at Advent.  
May your blessing come upon us  
and waken us afresh to your grace  
Expressed so clearly in Jesus birth.  
As we light the candles of this wreath  
may their light be a confirmation of your eternal love,  
an assurance that we do not walk alone,  
a reminder of Your Presence over the course of our journey  
throughout this season. Amen.

**HYMN VU 9** *People, Look East*

**1** People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
love the guest is on the way.

**2** Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
love the rose is on the way.

**3** Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
love the bird is on the way.

**4** Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928

Music: French Folk melody, harm. Martin Fallas Shaw 1928

Words © David Higham assoc. harmony © Oxford University Press 1928

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### **WORDS OF THANKSGIVING**

We praise you gracious God, our Maker, source of Grace and Sustaining Love. By your creative word you brought the world to birth and in your image and likeness you brought into being the human community. When we used our freedom in destructive ways you chose to come among us in the person of Jesus to provide guidance and a way to know reconciliation. In Jesus death and resurrection. You have confirmed the depth of Your love and provided eternal security in our relationship with you.

As we now gather around this table to share the cup and the bread, we remember your sacrificial love and we give thanks for the assurance it provides.

As Jesus extended his hands of peace to those who journeyed with him we extend our hands of peace to those with whom we share this table.

I invite us to extend to each other an expression of thanksgiving and welcome with the words

**"The peace of Christ be with you."**

### **A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD**

#### **A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**All: 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

HYMN VU Pg. 762 *Psalm 36*

Refrain:

**Your steadfast love, O God,  
extends to the heavens.**

One: Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**All: Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,  
your judgements are like the great deep;  
all living things you save. R**

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**All: They feast on the abundance of your house,  
And you give them drink from the river of your delights. R**

One: For with you is the fountain of life;  
In your light do we see light.

**All: Continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
And your salvation to the upright in heart. R**

Music: Eleanor Daley 1994 © Eleanor Daley 1994 Used by permission Juan Francisco  
Chávez #A715424 OneLicense.net

Mark 8: 34 – 36; 9: 2 – 8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN VU 5 *All Earth is Waiting*

**1** All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

**2** Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.”  
One whose name is “God with us,” our Saviour shall be,  
through whom hope will blossom once more within our  
hearts.

**3** Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

**4** In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Words: Catalanian, Alberto Taulé 1972 Eng. trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987 alt.  
Music: Alberto Taulé 1972, Skinner Chávez-Melo Words and Music © 1993 Centro de  
Pastoral Liturgica trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Pub. House  
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**SERMON** Rev. Dr. Don Misener  
*Experiences that Awaken Spiritual Reality*

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE  
OFFERING AND OFFERTORY DEDICATION  
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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**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter* - Harold Darke

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872  
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THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

As we gather around this Table we remember our faith, the assurance it provides and the inspiration to live it more consistently in our daily lives.

*Let us pray:*

- One: Holy God as we come to share the richness of this Table we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget the hungry. Your world is one world and as the beneficiaries of a world of plenty we are among the stewards of its nourishment.
- All: Holy One, inspire us to put our prosperity in the service of the poor.**
- One: We cannot share this cup and forget those who thirst for clean water and for those who thirst for justice.
- All: Holy One, keep us mindful of those who suffer for lack of the basic necessities of life.**
- One: As we remember today the tragic events happening in the middle east and all the suffering that it is causing.
- All: Holy One we remember those overwhelmed with their suffering and losses.**
- One: We cannot hear your words of assurance and forget the many ways our neighbours in this world are suffering the emotional trauma of the media lies that fuel distrust, prejudice and hatred.
- All: Holy One, show us how to take another step in confronting the communicators of hatred and devaluation of the cultural heritage of others.**

One: We cannot celebrate around this Table and forget our divisions within the Christian community and our contributions to the distrust of our multi-faith neighbours.

All: Holy One, heal our brokenness. Amen

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of unconditional love, your love is as vulnerable as a new born babe born in a stable manger, our love often expects special recognition.  
Your love is generous, even reckless in its caring while our love is often cautious and well defended.  
Your love is offered humbly, our love often expects a payoff.  
Your love is free, our love often comes with strings attached.  
Loving God as we gather around this Table inspire us to love You, ourselves and our neighbours more fully as you love us.  
Amen.

HYMN VU 466 *Eat This Bread (3x)*

Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
come to me and never be hungry.  
eat this bread, drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Words: Robert J. Batastini ad the Taizé Community 1982 Music: Jacques Berthier 1982 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE BREAD AND THE CUP

We remember that on the night of His betrayal and desertion Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying "This is my body, broken for you. As often as you eat it remember me."  
In the same way Jesus also took the cup saying "This cup is a new covenant sealed with my blood for the liberation of all people from the hate and distrust that threatens to destroy the human race. As often as you drink from this cup remember me."

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Once all have received each element the words of institution:

*"The body of Christ broken for you."*

*"The blood of Christ shed for you."*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten  
For the cup we have shared,  
For the gift of new life we have been given,  
We thank you, O God.  
May what we have done here  
So put its mark on our lives as followers of Christ  
That it will sustain us in the midst of adversity,  
Motivate us to live our faith more courageously,  
And inspire growth of our trust and our hope. Amen

**CAROL VU 48** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**1** Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, joint the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain:**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**2** Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb,  
Veiled in flesh the godhead see;  
Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell  
Jesus, our Emanuel! **R**

**3** Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth. **R**

Words: Charles Wesley 1739 Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840, Adapt: William  
Hyman Cummings 1856 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**HYMN VU 38** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Refrain:**

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

Words: Fre. Trans. James Chadwick 1880 Music: Fre. Carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen  
Barnes 1937 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

**POSTLUDE**

*Noel Variations* - Claude Balbastre



## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

### **Rev Dr Don Misener**

Born and raised on a farm near Brantford, Ontario in 1943 Don has ministered in a variety of settings including Kingston Pen, St Paul's Hospital and College of Emmanuel and St Chad in Saskatoon, Kingston Institute of Pastoral Care and congregations in eastern Ontario. In all of these settings he has taught a ministry of spiritual care. Don is married to Bonnie who has co-taught pastoral and spiritual care with him. They are parents of 3 boys and grandparents of 9.

### **Co-Liturgist**

Linda Steinberg

### **Organist**

Juliet Milsome

### **Hymn Singers**

Members of Chalmers Choir

### **Reader**

Al Fletcher

### **Candlelighters**

Brigitta and Monika Holzschuh

### **Media Techs**

Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung

### **Refreshments**

Heather Faris

### **Counters**

Murray Anderson, Heather Faris

### **After the service**

you are invited to a Christmas Get-Together 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/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwjzPzQ>

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.

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