

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023 4 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE

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 encouraged in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Gloria

trad. French carol, *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather on this winter evening, full of anticipation and excitement.

All: Let us open our hearts and minds to receive the good news the angels delivered on that special night so long ago.

One: May we be filled with wonder and love as we hear once again the Christmas story.

All: Let the words spark in us a new hope as we allow the spirit of Christ to fill our hearts.

CENTERING PRAYER

**All: Advent, the season of preparation is nearly over.
Our waiting is nearly finished.
God, we ask you to bless our time together.
Make us ready for Christmas.
Make us ready to receive your light in our lives.**

A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

CAROL VU 59 *Joy to the World*

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Word: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.

Music: attrib. George Frederic Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836

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ADVENT WREATH

Faris family

- One: As we light the candle of hope, we are reminded, that even in times of despair, there is still a glimmer of hope alive in our world. May hope fill our hearts in a way that sustains us.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with hope.**
- One: As we light the candle of peace, may we feel peace in our hearts, peace between family and friends, peace between warring nations and peace between human beings and all of creation.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with peace.**
- One: As we light the candle of joy may we seek out opportunities to bring joy to ourselves and to others.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with joy.**
- One: As we light the candle of love we are reminded of the love that surrounds us: the love of family, friends and the love of God.
- All: **We seek to be a people filled with love.**
- One: As we light the Christ candle we remember the birth of Jesus, so long ago, the light of the world.
- All: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN VU 6 *A Candle is Burning*

5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Word: Sandra Dean 1986 © 1986 Sandra Dean

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

STORY – PART 1

CAROL VU 60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

v. 4

4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

STORY – PART 2

HYMN VU 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

v. 1

1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly sing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

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

STORY – PART 3

CAROL VU 69 *Away in a Manger*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Words: Author Unknown Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1895, arr. Desmond Hassell ©
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STORY – PART 4

CAROL VU 43 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R

Words: John Wesley Work II 1907 Music: African-American spiritual 19th century,
arr. United Reformed Church (UK) © United Reformed Church, Oxford University
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COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

Were You There on that Christmas Night?

duet

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Monika Holzschuh

LORD'S PRAYER

written by Janice Moncrieff

Our healer who is everywhere,
You are most holy.
May your love surround us.
Guide us to make restorative choices,
Today, tomorrow and for all eternity.
Provide us with what we need to nourish our bodies, our minds and
our spirits.
Forgive us for having caused hurt to others.
Teach us to forgive those who have hurt us as we build our capacity
for compassion and understanding.
Protect us and keep us safe.
To you we give all glory, honour and praise.
Always. May it be so.

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

CAROL VU 67 *Silent Night, Holy Night (Stille Nacht)*

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar;
heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!"

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818, Eng. Trans. John Freeman Young 1863 et al.

Music: Franz Xavier Grueber 1818

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BLESSING

Monika Holzschuh



THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Family Service Planners	Heather Faris Monika Holzschuh Juliet Milsome Janice Moncrieff
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Duet	Janice Moncrieff, Margot Craft
Story Teller	Janice Moncrieff
Candlelighters	Faris family
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung



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

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