

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE ONLY



REV. DR. DON MISENER

"WAYS OF KNOWING GOD IS WITH US"

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

Song of Mary - Harold Friedell

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



For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son... John 3:16 The fourth candle reminds us of the gift of God's self-giving **Love** in the birth of Jesus. Also called the **Angels Candle** it is reminder of the angel's good news encouragement to the shepherds who represented at that time a class of people most often rejected and despised by others.

HYMN VU 6 *A Candle is Burning*

4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

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.

CAROL VU 44 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

- 1** It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2** Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3** Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.
- 4** For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears 1849 Music: Richard Storrs Willis 1850 1937
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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 Psalm pg. 749 *Psalm 23*

Refrain 2:

**The God of love my shepherd is;
What can I want or need.**

God is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,
you lead me beside peaceful waters;
you revive my spirit,
you guide me in right pathways
for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

Words and Music (for Refrain 2): Charles Collignon
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Luke 1: 26 - 38

1 John 4: 7 - 12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL VU 68 *All Poor Ones and Humble*

1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.

Refrain:

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
who love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

2 The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing. **R**

Words: v. 1 Katharine Emily Roberts 1927, alt. v.2 William Thomas Pennar Davies 1951 ©
Oxford University Press (v.1) © 1951 W.T. Pennar Davies (v.2)
Music: Welsh Carol, harm Erik Routley 1951 Harmony © Hope Pub. Co.
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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Don Misener

Ways of Knowing God is With Us

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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.

CAROL VU 36 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Words: James Montgomery 1816

Music: Henry Thomas Smart 1867, alt. desc. Ruth Girard 1994 © 1996 desc. Ruth Girard

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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

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POSTLUDE

Christmas Piece no. 1, op. 72 - F. Mendelssohn

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
Candle Lighters	Barb and Al Fletcher
Reader	Charmaine Puszkur
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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