

## CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REV. DR. DON MISENER

"A HOPE THAT IS GROUNDED – HALLOWED/ OPEN/ PERSONAL/ ENGAGED"

"

### 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 still recommended in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

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

*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

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

Flutist: Bill Egnatoff

Pianist: Joan Egnatoff

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

*Haf trones lampa färdig* - Anne Krentz Organ  
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## 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 ADVENT CANDLE

#### Introduction to Advent Candle celebration for 2023

The word "Advent" means "a coming, an approach, an arrival." Advent has to do with a journey toward Bethlehem in which we have the opportunity to be drawn by the Light of God come among us in the person of the babe of Bethlehem. The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite and never-ending love for us.

The four candles of Advent represent the themes of the four Sundays of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. A fifth candle in the middle of the wreath represents the birth of Jesus.

The first candle of Advent represents **HOPE**. The first candle is purple in color, symbolizing a royalty that chooses to serve rather than be served.

Sometimes also referred to as a **Prophecy Candle**, it reminds us of Isaiah's testimony to the birth of Jesus and all the promises in the Old Testament Jesus fulfilled. As we light this candle, we are reminded of a hope that has stood the test of time.



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

v. 1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright  
A candle of Hope in December's dark night  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

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 as we travel this Advent season  
and may it 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 1** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

v. 1, 2, 6, 7

**1** O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2** O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. **R**

**6** O come, O Dayspring, from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **R**

**7** O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples, in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace. **R**

Words from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca 9<sup>th</sup> century, trans. John Mason Neale 1851

© the Church Pension Fund Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody, arr. Healey Willan © arr.

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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 to hear afresh your Word to  
us today. Amen.

### READINGS

Isaiah 9: 2; 6 - 7

John 1: 6 - 14

Romans 8: 38 - 39

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN VU 654 *All My Hope is Firmly Grounded*

- 1 All my hope is firmly grounded  
in our great and living Lord;  
who, whenever I most need him,  
never fails to keep his word.  
God I must wholly trust,  
God the ever good and just.
- 2 Tell me, who can trust our nature,  
humans weak, and insecure?  
Which of all the airy castles  
can the hurricane endure?  
Built on sand, naught can stand  
by our earthly wisdom planned.
- 3 But in every time and season,  
out of love's abundant store,  
God sustains the whole creation,  
fount of life forevermore.  
We who share earth and air  
count on God's unfailing care.
- 4 Thank, O thank, our great Creator,  
through God's only Son this day;  
God alone, the heavenly potter,  
made us out of earth and clay.  
Quick to heed, strong in deed,  
God shall all the people feed

Words: Joachim Neander 1680, trans. Fred Pratt Green 1986 © trans. 1989 Hope Pub. Co,  
Music: Herbert Howells 1930, 1977 © 1968 Novello and Co. Ltd. Reprinted with permission of  
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**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Don Misener

*A Hope that is Grounded – Hallowed/ Open/ Personal/ Engaged*

**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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**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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.

**HYMN VU 18** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

**1** There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
The lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

**2** O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

Words: James Lewis Milligan 1925 alt.

Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft 1938 © Henry Hugh Bancroft.

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## 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

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POSTLUDE

Flutist: Bill Egnatoff

Pianist: Joan Egnatoff

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

French Carol - arr. David Ferreira

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### **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.

<b>Co-Liturgist</b>	Linda Steinberg
<b>Organist</b>	Juliet Milsome
<b>Hymn Singers</b>	Members of Chalmers Choir
<b>Flutist</b>	Bill Egnatoff
<b>Pianist</b>	Joan Egnatoff
<b>Advent Candle Readers</b>	Jane MacEwen, Joan Simeon
<b>Reader</b>	Heather Faris
<b>Media Techs</b>	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
<b>Refreshments</b>	Heather Faris
<b>Counters</b>	Barb Laidlaw

#### **After the service:**

you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship.



**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](http://www.chalmersunitedchurch.org)