

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 2023

REV. NANCY CLARKE

"HOPES AND FEARS"

CHRISTMAS 1

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

Chorale Prelude on the Melody "Quem Pastores" - Healey Willan

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: We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

All: **May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.**

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 (from Deuteronomy 31.6)

One: We end one year and enter another one.

All: **We are strong and of good courage.**

One: We are not afraid for we know that God is here.

All: **God will not fail us or forsake us.**

CENTERING PRAYER

O Gracious God, many voices call to us. Guide us to desire your voice. Lead us to patiently seek your presence in our lives. Let us be still so that we might hear you. Strengthen us to follow your will for our lives with courage and truth. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN VU 96 *Will You Come and See the Light*

- 1 Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 2 Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 3 Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 4 Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 5 Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Words: Brian Wren 1989 Music: Trad. Scottish melody, arr. Valerie Ruddle 1993
Words and arr. ©1993 Hope Pub. Co

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 61: 10 - 11, 62: 1 - 3

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Clarke

Hopes and Fears

HYMN VU 58 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle-stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all,
Christ the babe is born for all.

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

Word: Polish carol, trans. And para. Edith M. G. Reed 1921

Music: Polish folk melody, harm. A.E. Rusbridge, harm. © 1960 A.E. Rusbridge

Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

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 Used by
permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

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.

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 world! the Savior 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

Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: May the assurance of God's presence everwith us, give us courage.
May we confidently go where Christ leads us.

All: **May we trust the Spirit to guide us through what was, what is,
and what will be. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN VU 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: French trad. trans. James Chadwick 1880 Music: French Carol melody,

arr. Edward Shippen Barnes 1937 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune in D major - C.S. Lang

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister	Rev. Nancy Clarke is originally from London, Ontario. She has a BA in English from the University of Western Ontario. She graduated from Queen's Theological College with an MDiv and was ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1987. Her first pastoral charge was near Truro, Nova Scotia. In Ontario she has ministered at the Wooler-Stockdale Pastoral Charge near Trenton, the Portland-Elgin Pastoral Charge, at Grace United Church in Sydenham, at St. Matthew's United Church, Kingston and was the Pastoral Care Minister at Chalmers United Church (September 2011 – June 2017 and April 2018 – September 2018). Nancy served the Roblin-Enterprise United Church Pastoral Charge (October 1, 2016 – April 19, 2022). She is semi-retired and is currently filling in as Sunday pulpit supply in the Kingston area. She is married to the Anglican Archdeacon Rev. Bill Clarke, who is the minister at St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Kingston. They have 2 adult sons, a daughter-in-law and a young granddaughter.
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Reader	David Spooner
Media Techs	Nick Steinberg
	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung,
Refreshments	David & Rosalie Spooner
Counters	Charmaine Puszkur

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 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



Chalmers United Church

212 Barrie St. Kingston, K7L 3K3

t 613-546-3263 x 221

e office@chalmersunitedchurch.com

w www.chalmersunitedchurch.com