

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, JAN. 7, 2024

REV. DR. JEREMY MCCLUNG

"AN EPIPHANY TO SHARE"

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

In Dulce Jubilo ("In Quiet Joy") - Dietrich Buxtehude

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 82 *A Light Is Gleaming*

Refrain:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

Words & Music: Linnea Good 1992 © 1992 Borealis Music
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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together, on this Epiphany Sunday, to worship God.

All: The one who sent the star to illuminate the path to the manger where Jesus lay.

One: We lift up our hearts to God.

All: The one who penetrates the darkness with eternal love.

One: Arise and shine, for God's light has come.

All: We lift our voices in song and prayer as we celebrate the coming of the King of Glory.

CENTERING PRAYER

God of light and love, we ask that you be with us in this place as we marvel at the gift of your son. We come, as a community of faith, to walk the path together, to recognize your light, both in ourselves and in others. Let us open our minds and our hearts as we listen for your word. Amen.

HYMN VU 64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks 1868

Music: tune Forest Green (VU530) Eng. trad. melody, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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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

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL VU 91 *The First Nowell*

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **R**

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

5 Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. R

Word: Eng. trad. carol, ca. 17th century, alt.

Music: Eng. trad. melody, harm. John Stainer 1871, desc. and harm. Healey Willan 1926,

Refrain harm. and desc. © 1926 Oxford University Press Inc. Used by

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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Jeremy McClung

An Epiphany to Share

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.

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 Press
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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN MV 209 *Go, Make a Diff'rence*

Refrain

**Go, make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

Words and Music: Steve Angrisano, Tom Tomaszek © 1997 Spirit and Song Pub.
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POSTLUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light - Johann Schop, arr. by J.S. Bach

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister	Rev. Dr. Jeremy McClung recently completed his PhD in practical theology/homiletics at Wycliffe College, where he was recently appointed the director of the Institute of Evangelism. He is married with three children (including Aidan, one of our media techs) and lives in Huntsville, Ontario, where he spent 14 years planting and pastoring Muskoka Community Church.
Co-Liturgist	Janice Moncrieff
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Reader	Gerald McGrath
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments	Mary Davis Little
Counter	Nick Steinberg

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
hpse14@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

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