

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, JAN. 14, 2024

REV. DR. NADENE GRIEVE-DESLIPPE

"BETWEEN THE DARKNESS AND THE DAWN"

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

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

HYMN VU 82 *A Light Is Gleaming* refrain only

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.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

- One:** In the first days and weeks of a new year we are hopeful of a year of blessing. There is much that is unsettling in the world, and, all too quickly the hope invested in a newly born baby can be eclipsed by drama, intolerance and hate.
- All:** In worship we seek to be reminded that God has not abandoned the world or her people and we search for pinpricks of light in the dark tunnels of uncertainty. Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.

CENTERING PRAYER

All: Holy One, who continues to love the world and all of her peoples regardless of their faith stance, encourage us. Saving One, who continues to bring light and life to all who are in need, enlighten us. Present One, who remains among us to illuminate and guide, open our eyes and attune our ears to your gentle, insistent call. Holy One, Saving One, Present One bless us now and always. Amen.

HYMN VU 248 *When Long Before Time*

v. 1-3

1 When long before time and the worlds were begun,
When there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream....

2 ... the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

3 The sounds of the creatures were on with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

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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.

READING

1 Samuel 3: 1 - 20

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 371 *Open My Eyes That I May See*

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Nadene Grieve-Deslippe

Between the Darkness and the Dawn

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 248 *When Long Before Time*

v. 4 - 6

4 Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God-Is-with-Us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death.

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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: The blessing of the God of Eli and Samuel be upon you.
The grace of Christ attend you in all ways and in all things, and
may the Holy Spirit light your way today and always.

All: **May we be instruments of God's peace and justice and may we
blessed as servants and agents of the gospel. Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN MV 209 *Go, Make a Difference* refrain only
**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.**

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POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister	Rev. Dr. Nadene Grieve-Deslippe was born and raised in Hamilton. She did her undergraduate work at McMaster and studied theology at Queen's. She completed a Doctor of Ministry at McMaster Divinity College. She has served pastorates in Manitoba and Eastern Ontario and retired on September 30, 2020 from Cooke's-Portsmouth Church, Kingston. She is married to Michael and they have three living daughters and are proud grandparents to three grandchildren.
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organist	Aurora Dokken
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Reader	Charmaine Puszkas
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments	Monika Holzschuh
Counter	Mike Hartlin
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

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