

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

REV. DR. DON MISENER

“MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME”

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

piano solo

Prelude in b minor – A. Siloti

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)
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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During our Lenten journey God invites us to experience afresh his love.

All: **As we walk the road to Jerusalem, we ponder His journey and our own.**

One: Jesus sets before us a way wherein we can be fully who we are created to be.

All: **Jesus confronts the temptations we all face and chooses to remain faithful to a call of compassionate service.**

One: He invites us to follow in his way of caring for others.

All: **And provides the grace we need to choose this way.**

CENTERING PRAYER

All: God of the many wildernesses of this world around us and within us soften our hearts and open our awareness to the particular needs of our neighbours near and far. Stir within us a vision of how you are calling us to live out the self giving this season invites us to embrace and express. Amen.

HYMN VU 108 *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* v. 1-3

1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter day.

2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

3 We bear the silence, cross, and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the feast of life.

Words: James Gertmenian © 1993 Hope Pub. Co.

Music: Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690 arr. W.H. Havergal 1864

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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.

Refrain:**God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.**

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

You discern my path and the places I rest;**You are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue,

you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery; I cannot fathom it. R

Where can I escape from your spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;**If I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I take wing with the dawn and alight at the sea's farthest limits

there also your hand will be guiding me**your powerful hand holding me fast.**

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me

and my day be turned to night,"

even darkness is not dark to you:**the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. R**

It was you who formed my inward parts;

you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.**Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you

when I was being fashioned in secret,

intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;**in your book my every day was recorded;****all my days were fashioned, even before they came to be. R**

How deep your designs are to me, O God!

How great their number!

I try to count them but they are more than the sand.**I come to the end – I am still with you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

and guide me in the everlasting way. R

Music (refrain): Hal. H. Hopson 1989 © 1989 Hope Pub. Co
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READINGS

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 16, 17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 120 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode, ca. 1866 alt. Music: James William Elliott 1874
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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Don Misener

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE
OFFERING AND OFFERTORY DEDICATION
DOXOLOGY

HYMN VU 540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving*
Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Words: anonymous Music: attrib. Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra 1715,
adapt. Henry John Gauntlett 1861
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PASTORAL PRAYER

VU Page 959 THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.

Music: David Haas 1986 © G.I.A. Pub. Inc.
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HYMN VU 223 *Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing*

1 Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
your servants proclaim the renown of your name,
who rules over all and is ever the same.

2 Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.

3 We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
the might of his Spirit, and truth of his Word,
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

Words: R.B.Y. Scott 1938 © 1988 Emmanuel College, Toronto, Canada
Music ©Welsh folk song, arr. John Roberts (Henllan) in *Caniadau y Cyssegr* 1839
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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Words and Music: Don Besig and Nancy Price (ASCAP) and Music by Don Besig (ASCA)
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POSTLUDE

Organ/Piano Duet

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Chorale from Cantata No. 147 - J.S. Bach

Arranged for Organ and Piano by Martha Powell Setchell

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
Duet Organist Angela Stewart
Duet Pianist & Soloist Yuhki Langelier
Hymn Singers Members of Chalmers Choir
Reader Barb Fletcher
Media Techs Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments Barb Fletcher
Counter Mary Davis Little
After the service you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship in MacCallum Hall



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/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwjzP2Q>

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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