

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 LENT III

REV. IAN MACKAY

" GOING TO.... GOD KNOWS WHERE! "

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

Entrée Solonnelle - Léon Boellmann

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: Christ is the light of the world.
Christ's light shines in the darkness and we behold its glory

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: The heavens are proclaiming the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**All: We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.
Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.**

One: From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks.
Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

**All: The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes.
God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.**

One: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.
God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**All: The ordinances of God are true and righteous.
In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.**

CENTERING PRAYER

All: O God, we are drawn together in this place because all our knowledge and discernment is not enough to give great meaning to our lives. All the pieces of our busy days need a centre, and we have come to see that centre in the symbol of the cross. There, your love went the distance for us. There, the paths of service were lifted up above the passion of personal gain. We are frightened by what you might expect of us, but we long for the wholeness only you can offer. Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

HYMN VU 255 *The Living God Be Praised*

1 The living God be praised, who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I Am! By earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

2 Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
in prophet's words you spoke of old, and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
inscribed upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

3 You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same.

Words: Daniel ben Judah 1404 trans. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann 1885
Music: Hebrew melody, adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon 1770
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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: O God, speak and act among us today to challenge all that we do in your church and in our lives which is not in step with your everlasting law of love. Equip us to be authentic witnesses to your love in all we do. Amen.

READING

Exodus 20: 1 - 17

John 2: 13 - 22

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 398 *Great Shepherd of Your People*

1 Great Shepherd of your people, hear!
your presence now display;
as you have given a place for prayer,
so give us hearts to pray.

2 Within these walls let holy peace
and love and friendship dwell;
here give the troubled conscience ease,
the wounded spirit heal.

3 May we in faith receive your word,
in faith present our prayers;
and in the presence of our God
unburden all our cares.

4 The hearing ear, the seeing eye,
the contrite heart bestow;
and shine upon us from on high,
that we in grace may grow.

Words: John Newton 1769 Music: Isaac Smith ca. 1780
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SERMON

Going To... God Knows Where!

Rev. Ian Mackay

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

HYMN MV 191 *What Can I Do?*

What can I do?
What can I bring?
What?
What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy.)
I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share. share. *(repeat)*
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt, Michele McCarthy, arr. Alan C. Whitmore
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favour, but to express our gratitude; not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We seek to make this community of faith a centre of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in our service and eager to embrace your Word in our everyday living. Amen.

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 today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Send us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN VU 686 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the host of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of the days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick 1930 Music: Welsh trad. Melody, arr. FRC Clarke
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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

Prelude - Gilles Jullien

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister **Rev. Ian R. Mackay** has been an ordained Minister of the United Church for 50 years having served pastorates in northern Manitoba (Flin Flon), south-western Ontario (London and Chatham), eastern Ontario (Edith Rankin Memorial, 1983-1993) and Montreal (St. Lambert, 1994-2010). In their retirement years, he and his wife, Jane live near Verona where they regularly attend and offer services to Trinity United Church. They have 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. Two of the families live on the west coast, in the Seattle area and in New Westminster, and their youngest son lives in Halifax. This alone can keep them active, travelling to both sides of the country! They also enjoy cycling, but only for much shorter distances and close to home!

Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Reader	Margot Craft
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments	Margot Craft
Counter	Mike Hartlin
After the service	you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship in MacCallum Hall



A gift has been made by the family
to the Chalmers General Fund in loving memory of
Lydia Lucyk and
Dawne Woodley Lucyk

Flowers in the Sanctuary

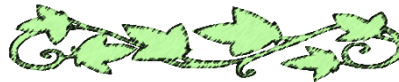
are placed with Respect for and in Memory of
folks connected to Chalmers, who have recently passed.

Brian Charles Rhodes March 14, 1947 to Nov. 25, 2023
Canadian Actor (2 year Chalmers' rental tenant).



Lukas Young June 30, 1998 - Oct. 24, 2023
Beloved son (of Chalmers' 5 year house tenant).

Robert Smithyman Sept. 14, 1956 – Jan. 26, 2024
Friend.



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/UCUg1tZaiRji18sFwjzP2Q>

The link for Chalmers YouTube channel can also be
found on the home page of the Chalmers website
www.chalmersunitedchurch.org

Chalmers United Church

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