

Chalmers United Church



10:30 AM SUNDAY, DEC. 1, 2024
REV. ELIZABETH GUILLAUME-KOENE
PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION
"GOD IS LIKE A FORT"

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.

We respectfully ask people to finish their conversations and make their way to their seats as the organist start to play, to allow for a few minutes of quiet reflection. Thank you.

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Reflections on Divinum Mysterium - Iteke Prins (b. 1937)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

All: 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: This Advent season, we will be taking on childlike wonder as we explore the question: "What is God like?" In her book by the same name, author Rachel Held Evans writes: "That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time. And while nobody has seen all of God (because God is far too big for any of us to fully see), we can know what God is like."

Reader 2: "God is like a fort, strong and secure with walls that are mighty and safe. Inside, there are hidden places to hold you when you're scared or need a quiet place to rest."

Reader 1: The God who makes us feel safe is the God who gives hope.

Reader 2: Today we light the first Advent candle: the candle of hope.

(Candle is lit)

HYMN VU 6 *A Candle is Burning*

v. 1

1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Word: Sandra Dean 1986 © 1986 Sandra Dean

Music: James R. Murray 1887 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: In this Advent season of waiting on God,

**All: We trust God's goodness. We rely on God's mercy.
We find shelter in God's steadfast love.**

Reader 2: In this Advent season of waiting on God,

**All: We walk in God's way. We follow God's example of love.
We keep our covenant promises.**

Reader 1: In this Advent season of waiting,

**All: Remember your love. Remember each one of us. Remember
your people everywhere.**

Reader 2: In this Advent season of waiting.

**All: God, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading.
We wait for your coming. Amen.**

CENTERING PRAYER

**All: Holy God of Hope, give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the
promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. As we worship
together, we offer ourselves to you and we open ourselves to
your abundant grace. Amen.**

~ written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

HYMN VU 5 *All Earth is Waiting*

1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."
One whose name is "God with us," our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide can be.

4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Words: Catalanian, Alberto Taulé 1972 Eng. trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987 alt.
Music: Alberto Taulé 1972, harm: Skinner Chávez-Melo 1988 © 1989 Skinner Chávez-Melo
Words and Music © 1993 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica
trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Pub. House
Used by permission Juan Francisco Chávez #A715424 OneLicense.net

WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

One: In Jesus, God came into our world and is coming again. In Jesus, all things will be made new. In Jesus, we are forgiven and can be at peace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN VU 560 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Words: Washington Gladden 1879, alt. Music: Henry Percy Smith 1874
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: **Speak to us, God. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

— written by Rev. Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, New York,
and posted on the LiturgyLink website.

READINGS

Psalm 46 VU pg 770

responsive

Refrain: The God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure.

One: God is our refuge and strength,

All: a very present help in trouble.

One: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should quake,
and the mountain fall into the depths of the sea,

**All: though he waters of the sea rage and foam,
and the mountains tremble at the tumult. R**

One: There is a river, whose streams make glad the city of God,
sanctifying the dwelling of the Most High.

**All: God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved.
God will help at the break of day.**

One: Nations are in tumult, empires are shaken,

All: for God speaks and the earth melts away. R

One: Come and see what God has done,
the wonders wrought up the earth.

**All: God makes wars to cease in all the world,
God breaks the bow and snaps the spear,
and burns the shields in the fire.**

One: Be still and know that I am God,

All: exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth.

One: The God of Hosts is with us,

All: the God of Jacob is our refuge. R

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God is Like a Fort

HYMN VU 18 *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

Words: James Lewis Milligan 1925 alt. Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft 1938 © Henry Hugh Bancroft. Used by permission of Eldred Bancroft. #A715424 OneLicense.net

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

CAROL VU 55 *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872 Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN VU 315 *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* v. 4

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber ca. 1820, alt. Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1861,
desc. Godfrey Hewitt ca. 1971 © desc. 1971 Godfrey Hewitt
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

INSTITUTION

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

All: Emmanuel, You are with us. Holy, Holy is your name. Your reign soon come. Your deepest longings soon be done here among us as among all who expect You in Hope. Give us each moment the strength we need to keep us in our waiting. Forgive us our sin. Enable us to forgive those who sin against us. Do not test us beyond our power to endure. But in your loving mercy deliver us through the darkness. For in You is the full coming of all creation in Holy Power and Quiet Love forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

*You are invited to come down the middle aisle
and then go back to your seats using the side aisles.*

HYMN VU 1 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. **R**

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **R**

6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **R**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. **R**

Words from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca 9th century,
trans. John Mason Neale 1851 © the Church Pension Fund
Music: 15th century plainsong melody, arr. Healey Willan © arr. Concordia Pub. House
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

BENEDICTION

One: In this moment of worship, we embraced Your presence again, O God.

All: **And we offer You our love.**

One: In this moment of prayer we proclaimed again Your purpose for the world, O Saviour.

All: **And we offer You our resources.**

One: In this moment of giving we heard Your call again, O God.

All: **And we offer You ourselves.**

One: Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the Christmas message:

All: God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us.

One: So, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. **Amen.**

— John van de Laar, in A Liturgy for Advent and Christmas, on his Sacredise.com website.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN VU 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High* refrain
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: Fre. Trans. James Chadwick 1880 Music: Fre. Carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes 1937 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

POSTLUDE

Chorale *Sleepers Wake* arr. F. Mendelssohn

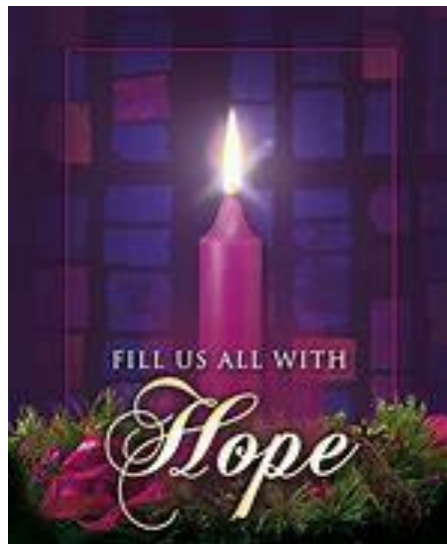
THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister	Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Media Techs	Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Reader	Florence Boyd
Advent Readers	Margot Craft, Linda Steinberg (Worship Circle)
Refreshments	tba
Counter	Nick Steinberg
After the service	you are invited to join in fellowship and coffee 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/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwj2P2Q>
The link for Chalmers' YouTube channel can also found on the home page. www.chalmersunitedchurch.org.

ADVENT I

When the world seems scary
When we try to escape and hide
The Holy invites us to confront fear
That we may find Hope



Light candle of Hope



Chalmers United Church
212 Barrie St. Kingston, ON, K7L 3K3
e: office@chalmersunitedchurch.com
w www.chalmersunitedchurch.com