

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



6:30 PM SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 2024

COVENANTING SERVICE
REV. ELIZABETH GUILLAUME-KOENE



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

*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

GATHERING MUSIC

O Great is the Depth of the Wisdom of God (from St. Paul) - F. Mendelssohn

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Jesus said, (Matthew: 18-20) "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." We light this candle as a reminder that we are not alone.

All: **May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel.**

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Philip Hobbs

HYMN VU 236 *Now Thank We All Our God*

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinckart ca. 1636 Eng. trans. Catherine Winkworth 1858

Music: Johann Crueger 1647 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

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

Romans: 18 - 28

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi DeJonge

HYMN VU 274 *Your Hand, O God, Has Guided*

1 Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page.
Our forebears owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both to this bear witness:
one church, one faith, one Lord.

3 Through many days of darkness,
through many scenes of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard your people's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one church, one faith, one Lord.

5 Your mercy will not fail us,
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by earth and heaven,
your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one church, one faith, one Lord

2 Your heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise, and hasten
to share the heavenly feast.
And this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming:
one church, one faith, one Lord.

4 And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one church, one faith, one Lord.

Words: Edward H. Plumptre 1864 Music: Basil Harwood 1898 desc. William Renwick 1991
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THE COVENANT OF MINISTRY

Regional Representative:

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene, Chalmers United Church community of faith, and the wider United Church as represented by East Central Ontario Regional Council.

Search Committee Representative:

After prayerful discernment, and the approval of Chalmers United Church community of faith, we present Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene. Elizabeth has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in the Chalmers United Church community of Faith. We believe that her skills and talents, when in partnership with those of the people of Chalmers United, will benefit the community of faith as we worship, study, pray and work together.

Regional Representative:

Elizabeth, you are about to join in the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place. You, the people of Chalmers United Church, are called to join Elizabeth in worship, study, prayer, and action. East Central Ontario Region will be responsible for the oversight of this ministry. Let us ask for God's grace as we covenant together this day. Let us pray ...

All: Uniting God,

you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:

**to celebrate your presence, to live with respect in creation,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion

**so that we may be a uniting church
embodying your love for the world.**

**As one, we proclaim: in life, in death, in life beyond death,
you are with us, we are not alone,**

all glory and power be unto you. Amen.

DISBANDING OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Regional Representative:

Would the members of the Search Committee please stand.

The East Central Ontario Regional Council and the members of *Chalmers United* community of faith would like to express our gratitude to the Search Committee for your faithful service over the past months. Your commitment of time, faith and discernment has brought us all to this significant time and place. Thank-you for the completion of this work.

COMMITMENTS OF THE NEW MINISTER

Regional Representative:

Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with *Chalmers community of faith*?

The Minister: I do, God being my Helper.

Regional Representative:

Will you accept the guidance of East Central Ontario Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Chalmers United Church community of faith?

The Minister: I will, God being my Helper.

Regional Representative:

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

The Minister: I will, God being my Helper.

Regional Representative:

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

The Minister: I will, God being my Helper.

Regional Representative:

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

The Minister: I will, God being my Helper.

COMMITMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Regional Representative:

Will you join with *Rev Elizabeth* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Chalmers United Community of Faith, East Central Ontario Regional Council and within the wider church?

All: We will, God being our Helper.

Regional Representative:

Will you support her as she serves among you in this ministry?

All: We will, God being our Helper.

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS

HYMN VU 509 *I the Lord of Sea and Sky*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **R**

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? **R**

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OFFERING

The offering at the covenanting service goes to the
East Central Ontario Student Bursary Fund

DOXOLOGY

HYMN VU 707 *For the Faithful Who Have Answered* v.3

3 For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love – deep, high, and broad –
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God

Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1986 Music: Trier Gesangbuch 1695 Words: © 1991 G.I.A. Pub. Inc.
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PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN VU 437 *The Day you Gave Us, God, Has Ended*

1 The day you gave us, God, is ended,
the sun is sinking in the west;
to you our morning hymns ascended,
your praise shall sanctify our rest.

2 We thank you that your church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world a watch is keeping
and rests not now by day or night.

3 As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4 The sun that bids us rest is waking
your church beneath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
your wondrous doings heard on high.

5 So be it, God! Your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
your rule remains and grows forever,
until there dawns that glorious day.

Words: John Ellerton, 1870, alt. 1994

Music: Clement Cotterill Scholefield, 1874

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SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Prelude on the Chorale

Tune: *Nun danket* ("Now thank we all our God") - Gotthilf Wilhelm Körner

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene |
| Reflection | Rev. Heidi DeJonge |
| Organist | Juliet Milsome |
| Regional Representative | Rev. Darren Liepold |
| Participants | Rev. Philip Hobbs, Juliet Milsome, Nick Steinberg |
| Search Committee | Marilyn Braden, Margot Craft, Darren Liepold, Aidan McClung, Juliet Milsome, Shannon Royster David Spooner, Anja Troje |
| Hymn Singers | Members of Chalmers United Church Choir |
| Media Techs | Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung |
| After the service | you are invited to celebrate with coffee, tea and cake in MacCallum Hall. |