

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 a.m. APRIL 27, 2025
REV. ELIZABETH GUILLAUME-KOENE
“MORE THAN CARE FOR CREATION!”

Health Precautions

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have symptoms of a contagious illness, or are isolating due to close contact, we request that you do not attend in person and join us on live-stream instead.
2. Many choose to remain masked for their own safety or for the safety of others. We welcome this and appreciate mutual respect.

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

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together.
☞☞ indicates you are invited to rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Ombra mai fu (Aria from Xerxes, Largo) - G.F. Handel

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: We gather this morning in the presence of the risen Christ, whose love and peace gives light to our paths and hope to our days!

All: **In the light of our Christ candle, the joy of our hearts is rekindled this day.**

☞☞ **HYMN MV 7** *Gather us In* (sung twice)
Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Say among the nations, God reigns.

All: **Let the heavens be glad and Earth rejoice!**

One: God is coming to transform the world.

All: **God will redeem the world with righteousness and truth.**

One: So let us worship God with praise and honour.

All: **We will offer God our gratitude for all that God has done**

CENTERING PRAYER

All: Gracious and loving God who made all the world,
we come before you this morning in worship and praise,
in longing and anticipation.
We wait to receive your Word broken open,
and in so doing, to be broken open, ourselves.
Incarnate God, please ready us now,
so that it is you we know,
and not our own selves projected onto you.
Holy Spirit, empower us now, to enter fully into worship,
and to leave, later, transformed
and ready to live out your Love and Wisdom. Amen.

 **HYMN VU 226** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

Refrain:

**God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, **R**

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, **R**

4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **R**

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint 1864 alt. Music: David Evans 1927 tune: Dix Conrad
Kocher 1838 adapt. William H. Monk 1861, desc. Alan Gray 1920
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WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

All: God of promise and purpose, You set before us a dream of your new heaven and earth, and we recognize that it calls for transformation. But we confess that we don't want transformation; we want easy fixes. We want the change, but not to do the changing. Forgive us, O God, for asking for change but not being willing to do the work. Forgive us for accepting the status quo, and for our roles in holding it up. Forgive our ways of thinking and acting that avoid transformation. Create in us hearts made new by your mercy and love, and move us to work toward your vision of a new heaven and earth. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: In the kin-dom of God, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;
In the kin-dom of God, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;
In the kin-dom of God, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

All: **Forgiven, loved, sent forth—we are not far from the kin-dom of God!**
Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN VU 229 *God of the Sparrow*

1 God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars how does the creature say Awe how does the creature say Praise	2 God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast how does the creature cry Woe how does the creature cry Save
3 God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave how does the creature say Grace how does the creature say Thanks.	4 God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal how does the creature say Care how does the creature say Life
5 God of the neighbour God of the foe God of the pruning hook how does the creature say Love how does the creature say Peace	6 God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart how do your children say Joy how do your children say Home

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983 © 1983 Jaroslav Vajda
Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1983 © 1983 GIA Pub Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

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

Genesis 1: 1 - 28

Mark 4: 37 - 41

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

More Than Care for Creation

☪☪ **HYMN VU 296** *This God's Wondrous World*

1 This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.	2 This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.
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3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Words: Malthie Davenport Babcock 1901, alt. Music: English trad. melody, adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard
1915, adapt. Stanley Oliver 19290
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COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT



HYMN VU 227 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

v.1

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Words: Fred Pratt Green 1970 Music: Welsh folk melody ca. 1784
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HIGHLIGHT: OUTREACH CIRCLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

All: Source of Life, beyond and within us, Your presence is holy.
May Your dream for creation be realized, Your deepest hopes
take root, here on earth, as in the fullness of being.
Give us today what we truly need.
Forgive us our failings, as we forgive those who have failed us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us,
and free us from all that holds us back.
For all glory grows from Your care, love and grace,
now and for all time. So be it. Amen.



HYMN MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*

1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover
the summer breeze joins the song,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

4 It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

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BENEDICTION

Go out into the world now, to transform and be transformed.
To take climate action and work for Earth healing.

Remember that we are all part of God's good creation,
and that we are not alone,
but are imbedded in a world full of grandeur and mystery.

And in that world God is with us: our Creator, Redeemer and
Sustainer, this day, and forever more. **Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION



HYMN MV 143 *We Cannot own the Sunlit Sky* v.1

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have a abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

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POSTLUDE

Morning has broken (tune: Buinessan) arr. John Barr (d. 2024)

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Guest Minister	Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene
Organist/Pianist	Juliet Milsome
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Reader	Peter Milliken
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Media Techs	Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Counters	Murray Anderson, Nick Steinberg
Refreshments	Brenda Hilliker

You are invited to join in fellowship and refreshments following the service. 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. www.chalmersunitedchurch.org.

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