

CHALMERS' LIFE & MISSION

We welcome you to join us for **online** worship this Sunday. The service will be available through our website at chalmerslondon.com. The video link is found on the home page. We encourage you to let us know you have joined us by filling in the short response form.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 20-27

SUNDAY	Carol Sing	9:45 am
	Online Worship—Advent IV	10:00 am
	Virtual Sunday School	11:00 am
	Stephen Ministry Online Supervision	7:00 pm
TUESDAY	Care & Share	12:30 pm
WEDNESDAY	Online Prayer Meeting	8:00 pm
THURSDAY	Christmas Eve Online Worship	7:30 pm
SUNDAY	Online Worship	10:00 am
	Virtual Sunday School	11:00 am

OFFICE HOURS:

The church and church office remain closed to the public. ***Christmas Hours:** Wendy will be in the office Monday—Wednesday, December 21-23, from 9am—12 noon, then taking a break and returning on Thursday, the 31st of December. Please email chalmerspresbyterian@bellnet.ca with any questions or needs. Rev. John can be reached on his home phone (519) 681-9876 or cell (226) 919-9180. Regular updates will be posted on the home page of our website, www.chalmerslondon.com. You may also find up to date information on the **Chalmers Presbyterian Church Ministries Group** Facebook page.

Chalmers Presbyterian Church

Worship Celebration

December 20, 2020

ADVENT IV

(Online Worship)



Chalmers' Ministry Team:

Ministers
Clerk of Session
Music Director
Office Administrator
Caretaker
Pastor

All the People of Chalmers
Tom Hunter
Beth Hickey
Wendy Sibley
Brad Dobbie
Rev. John Bannerman

342 Pond Mills Road

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WE APPROACH GOD

Online Carol Sing (9:45 am)

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

PWS & D Liturgy—Advent IV

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

ALL: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

One: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

ALL: In our homes and in our church we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.

One: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

ALL: Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.

(The candle is lit)

One: Let us pray:

ALL: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praise: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* (Lyrics on p. 3) 110

Celebrating with the Children: "The Promise of Advent: Love" (a short video)

Praise: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (Lyrics on p. 3) 115 (vv. 1-3, 5)

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-5a

Psalms 89:1-4

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

All: with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

One: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

All: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:

All: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

Scripture Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise: *People, look east* (Lyrics on p. 3) 125 (vv. 1, 4 & 5)

Sermon: ***Here I am, Lord***

Special Praise: *O Precious Infant* (Lyrics on p. 3) Wendy Sibley

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Chalmers' Life and Mission

The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Praise: *In the bleak mid-winter* (Lyrics on p. 3) 145 (vv.1 & 4)

Offering Prayer, Prayers of the People & **The Lord's Prayer**

Praise: *The angel Gabriel from heaven* (Lyrics on p. 3) 156

The Blessing

Musical Postlude



Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

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People look east

Eleanor Farjeon

People, look east. The time is near of the
crowning of the year. Make your house fair
as you are able; trim the hearth and set the
table.

*People look east and sing today,
Love the guest is on the way.*

Birds, though you long have ceased to
build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.

*People look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.*

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.

*People look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.*

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Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery, Melchior Teschner

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He brings salvation speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
he saves the poor and needy,
and helps the weak be strong;
they sing who once were sighing,
their darkness turned to light,
for they, who once were dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious,
Christ on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever—
that name to us is Love.

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In the bleak mid-winter

Christina Rossetti

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

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.

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The angel Gabriel from heaven

Sabine Baring-Gould

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,"
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name,"
mosty highly favoured lady: Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

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Special Praise

O Precious Infant

Wendy (Mackay) Sibley

Through the gates of Bethlehem in darkness they
arrived, the humble carpenter and young Mary
by his side. The woman great with child he sought
a place for her to stay, but every room was filled
so the two were turned away. T'was thus that in a
cave all heaven's glory was unfurled, and gentle
beasts witness the birth of the Saviour of the world.

Refrain:

*O little babe of Bethlehem
do you know why you've come?
While angels sing your praise
and shepherds guard your fragile frame.
Do your gentle tears reflect
the glory you've abandoned above?
O precious infant safe in Mary's arms of love.*

There was no fanfare in the city, no trumpet
heralded his birth, only travelers from a distant
land seemed to recognize his worth. Drawn by his
glory guided by the natal star, their tender hearts
could sense God's holy presence from afar. The
heavens fair exploded in their songs of glorious
praise, worshiping the Father for his mercy and his
grace.

For in the manger lay a baby, his fingers curled in
peaceful sleep; Joseph bowed in humble
reverence, stable boys knelt at his feet. They'd
heard the prophecy the host of heaven had
proclaimed, this child would claim the throne of
David and for eternity would reign. But in this
tender moment could their wondering hearts
believe, this one would make a sacrifice to set
the prisoners free?

Refrain

*O little babe of Bethlehem,
we're so glad that you've come.*

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Please *PRAY*

- ◆ For God's strength and peace for **Elaine and Gordon McInnis** as they grieve the passing of Elaine's mother, who lived in Scotland. Due to the pandemic, Elaine is not able to travel there.
- ◆ For God's healing and pain control for **Joyce Yull** as she receives care and treatment for a broken hip at Victoria Hospital.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Jo-Ann Marshall** as she recovers at home from leg surgery. May God give her strength and peace during her time of convalescence.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Ken Hall** as he recovers at home after enduring a fall late last year. May the Lord give strength to Shirley, as she cares for Ken.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Evelyn Campbell** as she recovers from a fall.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Edna May** who is in Victoria Hospital following a fall.
- ◆ For God's peace and comfort for the families of **John Martens** and **Henry Harder** who died, and healing for those who were injured, in the building collapse on Wonderland Road on December 11.
- ◆ For God's protection, peace and grace to surround us as we walk through these trying times due to the COVID-19 virus.
- ◆ For God to inspire us to be generous in giving our time, talents and treasure for the ongoing work of the Lord in the world.



December 20

Preparing a Place of Welcome

Being forced to flee from one's home and ending up in a foreign land is terrifying. There are often language, social and cultural barriers in the new place that make settling very difficult. Rani Ibrahim, the leader of the Newcomer Mission at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Peterborough, Ont., sees it as his calling from God to make this transition easier for those in his community. He does this through social programming, accompaniment services and prayer gatherings. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, this mission has helped hundreds of people experience the love of God and provided people with a sense of belonging in Canada.

SPEAKING OF STEWARDSHIP

December 20

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.

Hebrews 13:5a

CHALMERS ONLINE COMMUNITY COFFEE

HOUR: This Thursday is our Christmas Eve Service at 7:30pm so our regular coffee hour is canceled. We will gather on Zoom following the service for a brief 'virtual narthex greeting time' - we will wish one another "Merry Christmas" as we leave our service on Christmas Eve. Login details remain the same. Contact Sue if you have any questions: 226-663-4735.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES: There was a delay in receiving our envelopes this year due to shipping backlogs. Envelopes have arrived and will be available for pick-up the first week in January.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Cost of Betrayal

Betrayed – by Dee Henderson

Deadly Isle – by Dani Pettrey

Code of Ethics – by Lynette Eason

This is a book comprised of three novellas by well known authors. Let me give you a little insight into each story.

Betrayed – Janelle Roberts was charged with second degree murder in the death of her estranged boyfriend. After serving six years of her sentence, a bizarre happening makes Ann Falcon take a look at this old case. She discovers some problems with the verdict and eventually Janelle is released. But that means that a murderer is still loose, and could Janelle herself now be in danger? I really enjoyed the twists and turns in this short story.

Christine Hunter, Librarian

Chalmers Sunday School : We hope you enjoyed the our Christmas pageant this morning. Our Sunday School is blessed to have some very talented families! Special thanks go to Grace and Chris for writing the script, to Lizz for editing the recording and to Grace, Paige, Jack, Torry, Isla, Chris and Linda for performing. Sunday School will take a break on December 27 and January 3 and then start back on online beginning on January 10 at 11 a.m. Thanks. Judy



COVID-19 UPDATE: At their meeting on December 15 Chalmers Session decided that **online worship will continue for the month of January 2021.** All regular programming at Chalmers Presbyterian Church, save Care & Share, has been suspended and the church and office are closed. Mail, Email and phone messages are being monitored on a regular basis.

POWER OF HOPE 2020 CAMPAIGN

The Mission team is pleased to pass along **many thanks** for the generosity of the people of Chalmers Presbyterian Church for the many donations received in favour of the Power of HOPE organization. We know the young folks will certainly appreciate snuggling into a warm bed with new pyjamas! Needed the most are girl's pyjamas and underwear (sizes 8 to 14), plus boy's pyjamas and underwear (sizes 6 to 16). Also basic toiletries such as toothpaste and toothbrushes. Contributions to be placed into plastic bags or the original plastic packaging. Delivery to the church next week Monday 12 – 3, or Tuesday 9 – 12. Place donations in the bin provided just outside the main door. This initiative will end as of December 23rd. Thank you again for the many donations received, and the generosity of the Chalmers congregation.

Power of HOPE and Your Mission Team

CHALMERS VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING:

Join us for a weekly online prayer meeting. We will meet on Webex, every Wednesday evening at 8 pm for about an hour. Visit our website, or check your email for login instructions. All Welcome!

