



Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Celebrating our 114th Year—1912-2025

155 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton, Ontario L8H 3Z2

www.laidlawchurch.ca

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☎ 905 547 2021 (textable) revmoore@execulink.com

Our Mission: With respect, cooperation, and joy, through acts of love that build each other up, we seek to share the light of Christ as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton

Sunday Worship at Laidlaw

The First Sunday of Christmas

“Hospitality”

Worship with us In Person, or by Livestream on YouTube, search “Laidlaw Live”

Sunday, December 28, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Livestream Starts at 10:55 a.m.

Livestream URL: <https://youtube.com/live/HzLN5pJc4eI>

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Worship in Person, or Live from Laidlaw on YouTube!

Please Log in to Chat; or send a text to 905-547-2021—Request a prayer, send your greetings, light a candle!



Don't Forget to 'Like Us' on YouTube! 'Subscribe' and get notified of upcoming livestreams!
If you are online or in Person, please consider making an offering in one of two ways:
send an Interac e-transfer to 'laidlawuc@bellnet.ca' or press the 'On-Line Donation' button
at www.laidlawchurch.ca Thank you for your support!

Ministers: *All who follow Jesus Christ!*

Guest Musician: *Olivia Brown*

Musician: *Steve McRae, B. Mus, A.R.C.T., Dipl. A.A.*

Minister: *Rev. Douglas C. Moore, B.Th., B.A. (Phil), M.Div.*

Welcome and Announcements

God Gathers Us Together

Chimes and Candles Call

Call to Worship

📖 Isaiah 63, Matthew 2, Hebrews 2

The Lord be with you! And also with you!

Remember again all God's gracious deeds! Cry out to God, who lifts us up, as in the days of old.

Must we pass through suffering to find healing and grace? God is with us always; God's love redeems our lives.

Hymn of Praise

31

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, then, most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you here to me; your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.
3. A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high, that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly. My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never withhold the honour due.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

God, in your creation, we find despair and hope, we feel terror and joy. Yet, you give us courage.

Help us to remember your gracious deeds, so that we may return to hope and joy! Help us see the power in acts of love and mercy. Help us feel each other's pain, and joy.

God, lift us up! Redeem our lives. In Christ, show us love that binds us together. By your Spirit, redeem your creation; lift and carry us, as in the days of old, Amen.

Anthem

Lord, Here Am I

Words: Fanny J. Crosby 1820-1915 Music: Jay Althouse

We Hear God's Word

Young People! Gather at the front, or near your screens!

Youth and Scripture

📖 Hebrews 2:18

How to Take the Test

Young People Praying

Young People Singing

no. 152 in Joyful Noise

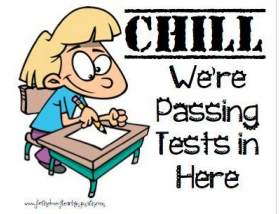
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime! (repeat)

...work... ..pray... ..sing...

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The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Children are welcome to go upstairs with Drew for Sunday Bible Lessons, there are colouring pages and puzzles in the Quiet Room

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

📖 Isaiah 63:7-9 (Old Testament, page 693)

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Psalms Response


Tune: All The Way 8787D moderate

📖 Psalm 148


1. Hallelujah! Praise from Heaven! Praise God from the lofty heights! Praise God, angels, Hosts adore God!
Praise God, sun! Moon! Shining stars! Praise God from the skies above us! Praise God in all space beyond!
Let all things praise God forever! God commanded! They were made!
2. God established all that is now, fixed the bounds, which can't be passed! Praise the LORD all earthly beings!
Monsters, deeps, fire, hail and snow! Stormy wind, fulfil God's bidding, mountains hills, fruit trees and pines,
Beasts and cattle, snakes and all birds, kings and peoples of the earth!
3. Young men give to God your praises! All men, women, old and young! All together, praise the LORD's name!
God's name only is most high! Splendour fills the earth and heavens, from our God who lifts us up!
God lifts up all faithful people! Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!

Adapted from the Scripture and set in metre by Rev. Doug Moore

Lesson from the New Testament Letters

 *Hebrews 2:10-18 (New Testament, page 219)*
This is the Witness of the Church! Thanks be to God!

Lesson from the Gospel

 *Matthew 2:13-23 (New Testament, page 2)*
This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hospitality

Gospel Hymn

81

As with Gladness, Men of Old

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold, as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright, so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendour see.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed, there to bend the knee before Christ, whom heaven and earth adore; so, may we with eager pace ever seek your throne of grace.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.
5. In the heavenly country bright none shall need created light; you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down; there for ever may we sing hallelujah to our King.

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Christian Life and Generosity

Offertory

You've Got a Friend
Words and Music: Carole King

Doxology

541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures, high and low;
Give thanks to God in love make known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

In Jesus' Name We Go to Serve

Closing Hymn

333

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee, hanged from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Response

964

¹Go now in peace, go now in peace. ²May the love of God surround you ³everywhere, everywhere, ⁴you may go.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

Join us for Coffee Hour!

At 10 a.m. before worship And Also:
After Worship Coffee and Games in the Gym!

Join us for Wii and Games in the gym and conversations!

Everyone is Welcome!

*Celebratory Cakes are always welcomed at Coffee Hour!
If someone you love or admire needs a celebration, bring a cake!*



Announcements

OFFICE HOURS: Between Christmas and New Years, Office Hours will be suspended. Rev. Doug will return to the Office on Friday, January 2, 2026, from 9 a.m. till noon! For pastoral care anytime, call 905 547 2021! Coffee is on during office hours; you are always welcome to come by! We appreciate lots of help!

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2026 are at the back of the church today, please pick yours up! If you would like to have offering Envelopes for 2026, we are happy to provide you with a set—speak to Rev. Doug!

OUR THANKS AND GRATITUDE to The Mandarin Restaurant at the Centre Mall! They have graciously chosen to make a charitable gift of \$500.00 to Laidlaw Church, supporting our work in this Community. We thank them for their kindness, and for being a delicious part of our community, and a place to celebrate together! It is wonderful to have the Mandarin nearby now! Please express your thanks for their kindness the next time you visit the Mandarin!

A SWINGING THANK YOU to the Dr. Peter Banting Swingtet! It's not Christmas at Laidlaw without the Dr. Peter Banting Swingtet bringing the cheer of the season to Laidlaw, a beloved tradition for many years now. This year, Ruth St. Armand, Chris Walton, John Stephen, James Locke, Urmas Soomet, David Crown, Jeff Goodall, and Keith Kindree kindly and generously donated their time and talent to bring Christmas to Laidlaw on Sunday, December 7, 2025. In 2025, with the Spring Concert proceeds of \$522.00, and Christmas concert proceeds of \$401.85 the Swingtet has graciously contributed a total of \$923.85 to help Laidlaw keep the beacon shining! Our thanks and appreciation for the Swingtet's amazing talent, kindness, and contribution, and to Dr. Banting for his leadership and generosity!

This Week at Laidlaw

Our 1st ever **LIDLAW LIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE SOBER SPECTACULAR** is happening Wednesday, the 31st of December, with: doors opening at 8PM: a big show with music, comedy, and lots of surprises at 9PM: and a sparkling-cider toast at midnight. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit <https://laidlawlive.eventbrite.com>

Office Hours! Friday, January 2, 2026, 9 a.m. till noon! Rev. Doug will be happy for help to get ready for Sunday!

Worship With Us at Laidlaw—Epiphany Sunday! Sunday, January 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. “Borrowed Joy” We will celebrate the Baptism of Robert Barlow! *Olivia Brown is at the keyboards.* Bring the children to Church! —there are activities for the children every Sunday, and Coffee Hour at 10 a.m. and after Worship with games in the gym! **Worship Livestream** at <https://youtube.com/live/c0LLJ5Ir0Do>

Upcoming Events

Rhyme, Rhythm & Reason the open mic for writers...all writers! Thursday, January 8, 2025, 7-9 p.m. at Laidlaw! Do you write songs, poetry, stories, fiction, pretty much anything? This is your open mic! And if you would like to just listen—it's a great night for that too! Refreshments available at modest prices! For more info, email anymodel@yahoo.ca

BINGO! Saturday, January 17, 2026, doors open at noon, Bingo at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be available! Join us! **Bigger Prizes!** 10 games for \$10, with a \$20 prize, two half and half specials, the first for \$2, the second for \$3. Children are welcome to play if they have a parent or guardian with them!

FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE NIGHT, featuring BAD GUYS 2, Friday, January 23, 2026, doors open at 6 p.m., movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Wii, Lots of food and drink for sale—and POPCORN! —Fun for all—bring your family!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Accessible Entrance: Please see Rev. Doug if you would like to use one of the lifts, for safety and training purposes.

We appreciate help! with supplies... We have decaf, regular coffee, and tea for now. We have enough flour and Tenderflake Lard for now, thanks! Speak to Carol or Kathi if you'd like to help with these fundraising efforts!

Please go online and give feedback to Green Venture on the garden project at Laidlaw! Use your phone's camera to open the online survey! Let's all offer feedback, as a measure of our thanks—see the poster below!

Looking for conversations about art, life, culture, society, history, and religion? Catch up with all of Rev. Moore's appearances on THE SPS PODCAST—and while you're at it, please like, share, comment, and subscribe! The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/@VERYEDiTOrIaL>

Book Korner—\$1 hardcovers, 50¢ softcovers, 25¢ magazines, children's books—new additions regularly!

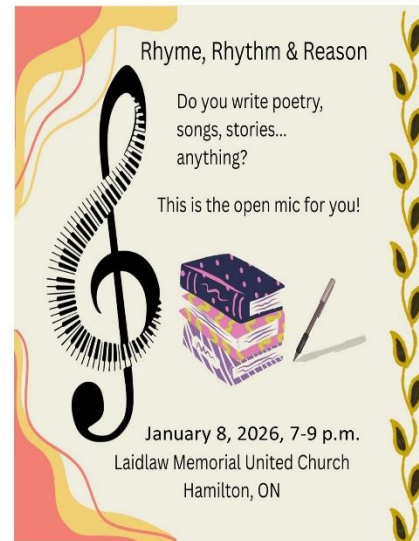
LARGE PRINT BULLETINS? We have Tablet Computers, for those who need large print!

Donation Box for Wesley Centre, etc.! Rose McGowan is making 'kindness kits' for men and women experiencing housing and health issues. Hygiene products, towels, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, etc., are needed!

Offerings and Donations to Laidlaw Memorial United Church, 155 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 3Z2 can be made by mail, Electronic donations can be made through Canada Helps, go to laidlawchurch.ca and click the “Donation” button (a form will pop up on our website, and allow you to make the donation without leaving the Laidlaw Website!); or by Interac E-transfer, use the church email address, laidlawuc@bellnet.ca (we have set this up for automatic deposit—no password needed)! This is a great time to go on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)! Call the Church Office at 905 544 6536 if you would like to go on PAR, or have a set of offering envelopes. *Please note: Offerings through ‘Canada Helps’ are receipted separately by Canada Helps.*

BUDGET NEWS! We are truly blessed by the generosity of our members and friends, and the good people who attend events and fundraisers at Laidlaw. The offerings of time, expertise, labour and treasure have us making amazing progress. Jehovah Jireh, we have met the December payroll, but there will be legal expenses to address in December, as well as catching up National Church dues, sigh! A little extra from everyone makes a big difference! Thank you to everyone who makes good on good intentions! *Donations to the general fund are a great help!* Regular giving from those in person, and online, are critical to ensuring cash flow to meet expenses! We appreciate everyone doing what they can to help us meet the challenge! You can help us in several ways. Participate and promote fundraising events at Laidlaw. Helping with donations for events is a great help. Encourage people to come with you to Bingo, Penny Sales, Movie Nights, Concerts, and Sunday Worship. Consider increasing or starting a regular monthly gift for the General Fund at Laidlaw by PAR (call the Church Office at 905 544 6536). Inflation has affected us all, and our church too. Please consider an increase in your offerings and/or your monthly PAR donation. *We deeply appreciate when those who are gathering with us online also make a donation to help keep the Laidlaw Beacon shining!* Sincere thanks to everyone for their generosity! If you would like Envelopes and don't have a set, call the Church Office at 905 544 6536.

GRANT PROGRESS: A Grant from the Ontario Anti-Hate Program: the report has been filed, and an application for next year is in the works! The Grant from the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council is helping to create the '*Artword Studio at Laidlaw*' We are making excellent progress, lights and sound are being installed, and the blinds are installed!



Angels Watching Over Me

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV).

Y D K D X K F J O S E P H K O
R R R E D V N O E G Y P T P R
O O Q O S K X P R E S V L W E
L D R H A I H M S O N R U Q T
Y E Z N Y L E Q D E A T H N U
H Y F A B L A P P E A R S T R
B Q U Z O E H K F O M R P W N
T I L A O N T O Y T A C C P S
A S L R N Y A H J E G I X H D
D Y F E Z I N P L I I A O H J
W V I T H E G F Q E S P H E D
C Y L H U W E H N H H R K H T
K O L C H I L D T J C E A T X
T C M M E S C A P E S F M E O
K T D S H M O T H E R I A S L

LORD
EGYPT
MAGI
JOSEPH

FULLFILL
RETURN
ISRAEL
APPEAR

KILL
SEARCH
BETHLEHEM
DEATH

MOTHER
HEROD
NIGHT
SON

ESCAPE
ANGEL
NAZARETH
CHILD