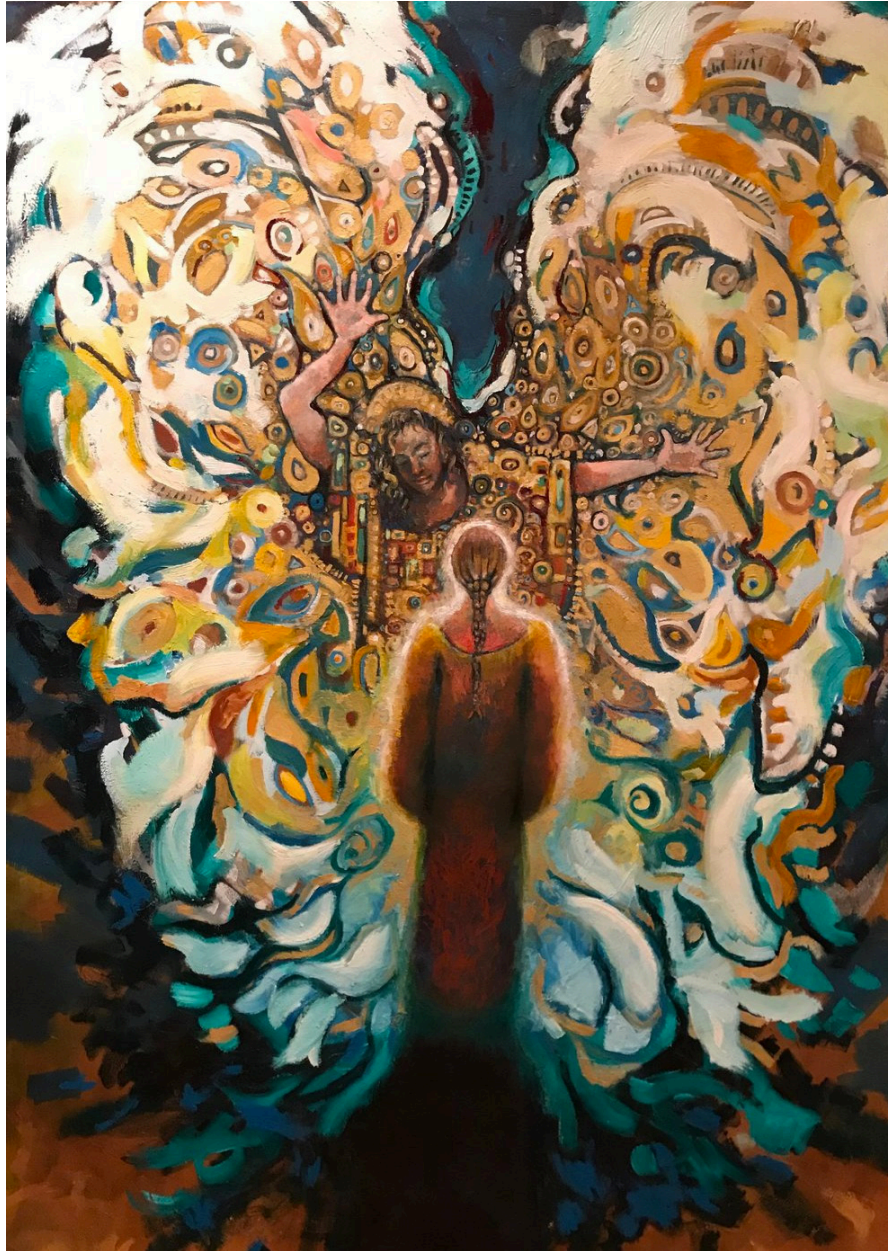


CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
December 22, 2019, Fourth Sunday of Advent



*The Annunciation*  
by Daniel Bonnell

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Rick Wornat, piano

RINGING OF THE BELL

Chris Sciarrone

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium*  
Geneva Bell Choir

Fred Gramann

*(As the Opening Voluntary begins, please use the time to center yourself for worship)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the tower bell rings,  
may it call out to the  
city and the world that  
Central Presbyterian  
Church is worshipping  
God.

Please join in reading  
or singing those parts  
of the service printed in  
**bold**.

† When this symbol  
precedes an element of  
the service, please rise  
in body or spirit.

## For the Younger ones among us:

Can you feel that Christmas is almost here? Everyone is getting excited for what this season will bring. You'll see everyone happier, and maybe you'll notice bright lights and colors everywhere. Christmas puts everyone in a joyful and jolly mood. Why do you think this is? In today's scripture, we learn about a man named Joseph, who was the human father to Jesus. Joseph received a dream from the Lord telling him that his soon-to-be wife was going to give birth to Jesus and the GOOD NEWS that Jesus will bring to the world. Because of Jesus and the GOOD NEWS he brings, we get to celebrate Christmas with everyone and enjoy the time of happiness and the bright lights! Can you write down one thing you are happy about with Christmas coming?

## † ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

John Blake and Terry Pons

*God calls people in every time and place  
to help God's love come alive for every person.  
In days of old God called Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and John.  
Today God calls you and me, and all who will listen.  
God's love has flesh and bones, hearts and hands.  
God's love is strong in our fragile lives.  
Lift up your hearts to the God of all creation.  
For God's love will be born anew this day.  
God's love is born anew this day and every day.*

## † HYMN NO. 137

*He Came Down*

HE CAME DOWN

## † CALL TO CONFESSION

Kate Colussy-Estes

## † PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are coming unraveled, O God, pulled apart from every angle, because we have each chosen our own way, forgetting the common good, the universal good, your true good. We need your peace more now than ever. We long to be free of our self-interest, and we hunger to hear your voice. We are in need of a way back from the messes we make for ourselves, because we have, too often, rejected your way to true peace, true wholeness. We are lost, and we need Christ to come quickly. Help us to find our way to you, the one born simply, the embodiment of love, Jesus, the child of wonder and love.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)*

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## † PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.*

## † RESPONSE: *Hymn No. 127, Refrain: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

*(First time, cantor; second time, all)*

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.**

## A TIME WITH CHILDREN/SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Mateo Augustine Nix

Vows

† Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Traditional), Page 35 of Hymnal

Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptizing

Blessing

## HYMN NO. 486

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-15

Page 650, OT, Pew Bible

### SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Page 1, NT, Pew Bible

SERMON

*All I Want For Christmas: Love*

Jessica Patchett

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN NO. 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Cathal Doyle

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*(Please sign the Friendship Pad found at one end of your pew and pass it along.)*

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

*A Spotless Rose*

Jim Beaty, soloist; Chancel Choir

A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light, amid the cold, cold winter  
And in the dark midnight.

Music: Herbert Howells  
Text: Trad. German Carol,  
Trans. Catherine Winkworth

The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid;  
For through our God's great love and might,  
The blessed babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

† AT THE PRESENTATION

*Advent Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free;  
Once more upon thy people shine; and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Christian Antwi

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN NO. 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Hymn No. 121, Stanza 1: O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Paul Manz

### About the offertory

**music:** Herbert Howells composed *A Spotless Rose* in 1919 as one of the *Three Anthem-Carols*. Here, the composer utilizes incredible harmonic and melodic writing to generate a mood of warmth and welcoming as we prepare for the coming of the Christ-Child.

During the offering, take a moment to sign the friendship pads found in each pew. If you are visiting with us, please leave your contact information so that we can reach out to you! Newcomers and regulars alike can see who is sitting around them and greet each other by name. By signing in, you help us build stronger community connections at Central.

### Welcome Visitors:

Central is a community in which you can learn and teach, care and be cared for, love and be loved. You have a place here among this community of faith.

To make an offering with your phone, scan the QR code below or text "cpcatlanta" to 73256.



## This week at Central Presbyterian Church

### Sunday, December 22

- 8:45 a.m. Courtyard Hospitality
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Pageant Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 12:15 p.m. Sunday Fellowship Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Children's Pageant Rehearsal

### Monday, December 23

*No events scheduled.*

### Tuesday, December 24

- 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship with children's Christmas pageant, candlelight, and communion.  
Childcare will be provided beginning at 4:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 25

**Merry Christmas!**  
*Church Office Closed.*

### Thursday, December 26

*Church Office Closed.*

### Friday, December 27

*No events scheduled.*

### Saturday, December 28

*No events scheduled.*

### Sunday, December 29

- No Sunday School.
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - Kate Colussy-Estes, preaching

## Stewardship Update

The Stewardship committee is grateful for the response to our announcement in the E-Weekly last week and in the Moment for Mission on Sunday that we are just short of our goal this season. Session has proposed a couple of exciting ministry expansions we hope to fund. One in particular is a 6% increase in our personnel budget to be able to fund the reinstatement of the communications director. The pledged amount thus far does not quite get us to that needed level. We are still in need of approximately \$65,000 in order to meet our hoped for 2020 budget.

Our goal is within reach! For those who have not pledged, please consider making your pledge as soon as you can. For those that have pledged, as you consider your year-end giving, please also consider increasing your pledge if you are able. Many thanks to those who have already done so! The church office can help you make a year-end gift toward the 2020 budget, if you would prefer to give during the 2019 tax year.

God is doing tremendous things in our church and we look forward with anticipation for what can be next. Thank you for your commitment to God's work in this place. In this Advent season, we are filled with a generous hope.

## Annual Christmas Breakfast for Shelter Guests

### Christmas Morning (about 6-8am)

**Volunteers Needed for cooking casseroles or providing fruit or drinks, serving guests, cleaning up (running the dishwasher!)**

Sign up via this link:



## Worship Notes and Announcements

**Our Liturgists today:** Kate Colussy-Estes • Christian Antwi

**Lector of the Day:** Tricia Berrett

**Today,** we celebrate the baptism of Mateo, son of Abi and John Nix Jr. and grandson of Kemie and John Nix.

**Ushers:** Jeff Spruell (captain) • Royal Grooms • Jo McMurtrie  
Em McNair • Kimble McNair • Wills Moore • Deanna Robbins  
Sherry Wright

**Choir Guild:** Beth Gustafson

Audio recordings of today's sermon may be found at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org)

You may find us on Facebook at "Central Presbyterian Church"

Music is printed under [Onelicense.netAA-710014](http://Onelicense.netAA-710014)

## January Preview:

**January 5:** Sunday School resumes for all ages.

**January 12:** Youth activities resume

To keep up with church happenings, email Linda Massengill to join the eWeekly mailing list.

## Central Presbyterian Church

201 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA, 30303  
(404)-659-0274 | [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org)

Jessica Patchett  
Kate Colussy-Estes  
P.C. (Buddy) Ennis  
Jennifer Sengin  
Vicki Fey  
Michael Morgan  
Christian Antwi

Lauren Scott  
Emmanuel Amponsah  
Hannah Trawick  
Martin Carver

Pastor  
Temporary Associate Pastor  
Pastor Emeritus  
Interim Choral Director  
Organist  
Organist Emeritus  
Dir. Ministries for Children,  
Youth, and their Families  
Children and Youth Coordinator  
OAC Seminary Intern  
Pastoral Intern  
GSU UKirk Intern

**Members in preparation for ordination as Ministers of word and sacrament:** Erin Burt