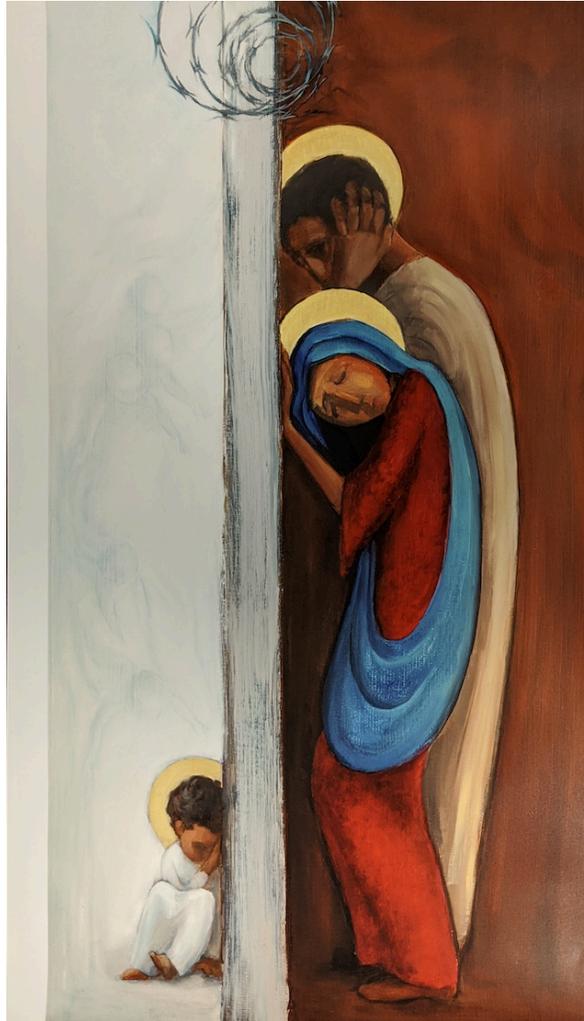


CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 29, 2019, First Sunday of Christmas



Waiting for the Wise Men
by Lee Kaercher

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Clayton Heidbreder, organ

RINGING OF THE BELL

Lynne Rea

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Clayton Heidbreder, organ

arr. Lani Smith

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† OPENING SENTENCES (From Psalm 148)

Christian Antwi

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights
Praise God, all of you who are God's messengers!
Praise God, all of you who comprise God's heavenly forces!
Sun and moon, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!
You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!
Let all of these praise the Lord's name, because God gave the command they were created!
God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.*

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:

When you wake up, do you remember your dreams? Sometimes, our dreams do not make sense, and, sometimes, it's so hard to even remember our dreams. In church today we will talk about a time when Joseph, Jesus' human father, had a dream that protected his family. But how did Joseph know that dream was real rather than the normal dream of eating a pizza or swimming in a tub of Jello? The truth is, he probably didn't know, but Joseph trusted that God wanted to keep his family safe, so he listened. God loves us so much, that God will do anything to keep us safe. In what ways has God kept you safe?

† HYMN NO. 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

† CALL TO CONFESSION

Oscar McCloud

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mercy, Love and Compassion, we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace. We focus so much on our own lives and desires, that we neglect the voices of your children who cry out for Justice. We confess our desire to make the season perfect, and have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of Healing. All too often we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love. Help us to see that pain and joy can exist together so that we might share your Joy with all those we meet.

(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. 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.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

Page 710, OT, Pew Bible

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:13-23

Page 2, NT, Pew Bible

SERMON

Salvation and Lament

Kate Colussy-Estes

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN NO. 154

Jesus Entered Egypt

KING'S WESTON

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed
Hymnal, Page 34

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *A Christmas Pastorale* Dorothy Wells
 Clayton Heidbreder, organist

† **AT THE PRESENTATION** *Hymn No. 144, Stanza 4: In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

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.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN NO. 87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN 42

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Hymn No. 113, Refrain: Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Joyous Bells* Edward Broughton
 Clayton Heidbreder, organist

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.

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 29

12:15 p.m. Sunday Fellowship Lunch
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil

Monday, December 30

No scheduled events.

Tuesday, December 31

Church office closes at noon.

Wednesday, January 1

Church offices closed.
Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 2

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 3

No scheduled events.

Saturday, January 4

No scheduled events.

Sunday, January 5

8:45 a.m. Courtyard Hospitality
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship - Jessica Patchett, preaching
12:15 p.m. Sunday Fellowship Lunch

Central Presbyterian Church

201 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA, 30303

(404)-659-0274 | www.cpcatlanta.org

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

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

Lauren Scott
Emmanuel Amponsah
Hannah Trawick
Martin Carver

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

Erin Burt

Worship Notes and Announcements

Our Liturgists today: Oscar McCloud • Christian Antwi

Lector of the Day: Rudy Massengill

Ushers: Beth Grashof (captain)

Audio recordings of today's sermon may be found at
www.cpcatlanta.org

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

Music is printed under Onelicense.netAA-710014

January Preview:

January 5: Sunday School resumes for all ages.

January 12: Youth activities resume; Children's choirs resume

January Winter Studies topics:

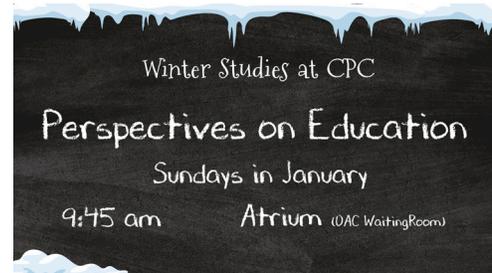
January 5: A New School, and a New Way of Learning

January 12: The Presbyterian Commitment to an Educated Clergy and Congregational Education: A Historical Overview of Blessings, Challenges, and Controversies.

January 19: The Public, Higher education Perspective - Georgia State University

January 26: Dialogue with Jason Esteves, Chair, and Cynthia Briscoe Brown, at-large member of the Atlanta Board of Education

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



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.