



Rejoice, Eric Disney

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ARR. CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI

GENEVA HANDBELL CHOIR AND ERICA PIRTLE, FLUTE

(As the opening voluntary begins, please use the time to center yourself for worship.)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING SENTENCES

In the season of Advent,

We watch, we wait, and we remind each other to keep awake:

Awake to the vision,

Where God's kingdom has already come on earth.

Awaken to this reality.

For God is on the move, and Christ is coming again.

Christ has come, and Christ is coming.

Alleluia! Amen.

DAVID COZAD

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.

Many hands helped create the Advent liturgical art in the sanctuary and elsewhere in the church building:

We thank Berta Irwin who created the Advent banners which are hanging in the vestibule across from the Washington Street doors.

The paper lace banners for each Sunday of Advent, representing the traditional themes of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love, were designed by liturgical artist Ellen Phillips, and cut by members of the Music and Liturgical Arts Committee and the congregation.

We thank the congregation members who brought Nativity sets from all over the world. The diversity of style and materials is truly wonderful.

For the younger ones among us:

This is the third week of Advent and for some of us it seems as though Christmas will never come. But today Jesus talks about being patient. The dictionary definition of patient is "able to endure waiting, delay, or provocation without becoming annoyed or upset." We are to be kind and good to each other while we wait. And even though it may not be Christmas, Advent brings many miracles, if only we paid attention.

Today's candle lighters are Robert Catterall, M. E. Davis, Rob Forbes, and Sally Wood.

Some traditions call the Third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* is Latin for "rejoice." The liturgical color for Advent is blue (purple is used in some congregations), but the third Sunday of Advent uses rose or pink as its color. Rejoice!

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Advent God, come among us.
Awaken us to your justice, and fill us with your joy.
Forgive us when our hunger for justice gives way to our hunger for power.
Forgive us when our hope for peace is swallowed by our fear of failure.
Forgive us when our songs of faith are drowned out by the shouts of the world.
Advent God, come among us, and make all things new.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ PASSING THE PEACE *(Please be seated following the Passing the Peace.)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE



As we light the Advent candles, we awaken our spirits to coming of God.

Remembering the shalom of God,

We light a candle for peace.

Leaning on the promise of God,

We light a candle for hope.

Basking in the presence of God,

We light a candle for joy.

In joy we pray, and in joy we sing,

Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

RESPONSE

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL

ENSEMBLE

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:1-10

PAGE 678, OT, PEW BIBLE

ANTHEM

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

ARR. K. LEE SCOTT

CHANCEL CHOIR; ERICA PIRTLE, FLUTE; AND HANDBELLS

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of God's word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name! Make known such might who wondrous deed has done;

With mercy sure, from age to age the same, God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word! Firm is the promise and the mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord, to children's children and forevermore!

SECOND READING

JAMES 5:7-10

PAGE 221, NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

INKLINGS

MICHELLE HWANG

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN No. 105

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

BESANÇON

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

DEDICATION OF THE HEIFER FUNDS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MOLLY MCGINNIS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

COMFORT, COMFORT

ARR. CATHY MOKLEBUST

GENEVA HANDBELL CHOIR; ERICA PIRTLE, FLUTE; AND PERCUSSION

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION

ADVENT DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDETH

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

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN No. 100

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN No. 88, REFRAIN

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES THE MORNING STAR*

J. S. BACH

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.

WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our liturgists today are David Cozad, Anna George Traynham, and Molly McGinnis.

Our lector today is Debbie Miller.

Audio recordings of sermons may be found at www.cpcast.org. You may subscribe to podcasts at that site and find us on Facebook as "Central Presbyterian Church."

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CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Michelle Hwang Associate Pastor for
Christian Education and Spiritual Formation
Anna George Traynham and Molly McGinnis

Associate Pastors
P. C. (Buddy) Enniss Pastor Emeritus
David A. VanderMeer

Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries
Leslie Boyette Interim Organist
Michael Morgan Organist Emeritus

MEMBERS IN PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION

AS TEACHING ELDERS

Sarah Paulsen, Erin Burt, Julia Watkins

THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

Susan Landrum ▪ Hugh Landrum, co-captains ▪ Carolyn Porter
Mike Sizemore ▪ Rudy Massengill
Kathy McCloud ▪ Terry Tusher
Shelley Parnes

Greeters

Shirley Landrum
Roland Kinser ▪ Deanna Robbins

Deacons of the Day

Juliana Winters ▪ Ben Evans

Sound Engineer

Kim McNair

Counters

Lee Biola ▪ David Messer
Carol McCullough Messer

Collectors of Friendship Pads

Cook-Byers Family
Sarah, Kevin, Sam & David
Jo & Ted McMurtrie

Bell Ringer

Tusher Family

Choir Guild

Kathy Kohn

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 11

12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Fellowship Lunch
12:15 p.m. Pick up shortbread cookies
12:15 p.m. Fair-Trade Gifts Sale
12:45 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
12:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

Monday, December 12

1:30 p.m. Program & All-Staff
2:30 p.m. Worship Staff
6:00 p.m. Budget Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

No events scheduled

Wednesday, December 14

5:30 p.m. Geneva Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

6:30 p.m. Staff Christmas Party
VanderMeer/Ivey home

Friday, December 16

10:00 a.m. OAC Holiday Party
7:30 p.m. Worship Ministry Party

Saturday, December 17

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
9:00 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Kiva
11:00 a.m. Worship for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Fellowship Lunch
12:15 p.m. Fair-Trade Gifts Sale
12:45 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
12:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Choirs' Christmas Party
Ashe Home

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to Central! We are glad you are here! All are invited to worship God in this place. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, may Central be a community in which you can be nurtured and supported along the way and a place where you may serve and be served in the spirit of Christ. Contact David Cozad at dcozad@cpcatlanta.org to learn more about life at Central. We hope to see you again soon!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET!

Scottish Shortbread Cookies must be picked up today!

'Tis the Season

Each year, Central offers you the opportunity to remember or honor a loved one during Advent through a gift to the Sanctuary Flower Fund. Your gift will continue to bring joy and beauty by supporting the general flower fund throughout the New Year.

You may complete a form on the CPC website (Go to the home page; follow the link to *Joy of Giving*) or complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or in Sandra McDonald's mail folder in the church office by Wednesday, December 14, along with a check payable to "Central Presbyterian Church" and designated for "Sanctuary Flower Fund." Names of donors and those being remembered or honored will be published in the worship bulletin on December 18.



Central's Sanctuary Flower Fund Donor's name: _____

This Gift is made in honor of: _____

or in memory of: _____

Amount of donation: _____