

MARCH 12, 2017 | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



*Nicodemus Visiting Jesus at Night*  
Henry Ossawa Tanner

The child of a woman born into slavery, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937) was the first African American student at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and went on to become the first African American painter to gain national acclaim. Many of his paintings depict biblical scenes.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

SING PRAISE TO GOD

BARRY L. BOBB

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*And also with you.*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### ✦ OPENING SENTENCES

MOLLY MCGINNIS

*Hear these words from Scripture:*

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.”*

*“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*“Love never ends.”*

*“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

*“God so loved the world.”*

*God so loves the world.*

*Let us worship the God of love and life.*

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.

The opening sentences draw from scriptures about love, including quotes from 1 John 4:7, Leviticus 19:18, 1 Corinthians 13:8, Romans 13:10, Matthew 22:37, and John 3:16. The scriptures are full of language and imagery about God's love for us and our call to love one another.

## For the younger ones among us:

In today's scripture story, Jesus says that God loves the world very much. God became a human in Jesus, lived with us, and even died to show us how much God loves us. God loves the whole world, including YOU! Look for the word "LOVE" in the hymns, bulletin, and scriptures. What does it mean to love someone SO much?

During the offering, take a minute 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.

## ✦CALL TO CONFESSION

TRACE HAYTHORN

## ✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy one, holy three,  
The winds of your Spirit beckon us to follow,  
but we cannot hear the wind over the noise we have created.  
Again and again, you call us to believe.  
Again and again, we look the other way.  
You offer us freedom, but we choose independence,  
Pretending that we have ultimate control.  
You offer us life, but we find ourselves perishing,  
Buried under the weight of our own self-interest.  
Forgive us, God of life.  
Heal us, and bring us peace . . .

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

## ✦KYRIE

PARDINI

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us;

## ✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*God so loved the world that God would come among us,  
Become one of us, live with us, and suffer for us,  
That we might have life and have it abundantly.  
Hear this good news: God loves us, God forgives us, and God calls us to try again.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

## ✦PASSING THE PEACE

## ✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 442, STANZA 4

WOODWORTH

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God I come; I come

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

PSALM 121

PAGE 582 OT, PEW BIBLE

### SECOND READING

JOHN 3:1-17

PAGE 88 NT, PEW BIBLE

### SERMON

SO LOVED

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## ✦HYMN NO. 53

O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE

NOEL

## ✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ADAPTED FROM *THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM*

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—  
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

*What is true faith?*

True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;  
it is also a wholehearted trust,  
which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted,  
not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins,  
eternal righteousness, and salvation.

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

*But why are you called a Christian?*

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing.

I am anointed to confess his name,  
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,  
to strive with a free conscience against sin and evil in this life,  
and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

*Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own,  
why then should we do good works?*

Because Christ, having redeemed us, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image,  
so that with our whole lives  
we may show that we are thankful to God for God's benefits,  
so that God may be praised through us.

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

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD*  
CHANCEL CHOIR

BOB CHILCOTT

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son  
that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION *DOXOLOGY*

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN No. 774 *THERE IS NOW A NEW CREATION (STANZAS 1-4)*

STUTT GART

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN No. 774, STANZA 5

STUTT GART

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *TWO VARIATIONS ON STUTT GART*

ARR. DAVID N. JOHNSON

### Lenten Prayer Tree

During the Lenten season, we are placing two Prayer Trees in the Sanctuary. During the Prayers of the People each Sunday, you are invited to go to the trees to tie a colored prayer ribbon on a branch to represent your prayer concerns. By Easter the tree will have "bloomed" with a visible, tangible manifestation of our congregation's prayers. Let us lift up our hearts together in prayer!

### Color key for the ribbons

PINK - Praise and Adoration  
RED - Courage  
YELLOW - Thanksgiving  
SILVER - Wholeness & Healing  
LT. GREEN - Confession and Forgiveness  
TURQUOISE - Strength  
WHITE - Peace  
PURPLE - Wisdom and Discernment

### 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 Molly McGinnis and Trace Haythorn.

**Our lector today** is David Enniss.

**Audio recordings** of sermons may be found at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org). You may find us on Facebook as "Central Presbyterian Church."

**Music is printed** under Onelicense.net AA-710014.

## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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David Cozad Interim Pastor

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

Vicki Fey Organist

Michael Morgan Organist Emeritus

## MEMBERS IN PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION

### AS TEACHING ELDERS

Sarah Paulsen

Erin Burt

Julia Watkins

## 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](mailto:dcozad@cpcatlanta.org) to learn more about life at Central. We hope to see you again soon!

## 2017 Lenten Home Worship Services

### Fellowship, Education, and Worship, and Food – All in one!

The Ministry of Worship will be offering informal worship services during the season of Lent in various congregational homes throughout the city. All begin at 7:00 p.m.

These evenings will be designed by clergy-affiliate members and friends of Central. A simple supper will be offered - you may bring an adult beverage to share.

**Monday, March 13**, Borst home, 30 Maryeane Dr. NE | Kim Wagner, worship leader.

**Thursday, March 23**, Lehfeltdt home | Tom Long, worship leader.

**Friday, March 31**, Location TBA | Leigh Campbell-Taylor, worship leader.

## THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

### Ushers

Susan Landrum ▪ Hugh Landrum, co-captains ▪ Carolyn Porter  
Mike Sizemore ▪ Chris Kelly  
Kathy Walker ▪ Terry Tusher  
Shelley Parnes

### Greeters

Shirley Landrum  
Roland Kinser ▪ Deanna Robbins

### Deacons of the Day

Mark Borst ▪ Chantal Tusher

### 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

Lynne Rea

### Choir Guild

Dot Phillips

## MARCH 19, 9:45 A.M. FAITH AND IMMIGRATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Next week, join us for adult Sunday school led by Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar, PCUSA mission co-workers from the Arizona-Mexico border. Come to the atrium to hear from Mark and Miriam about their important work on behalf of our denomination.

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### Sunday, March 12

12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil  
12:15 p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
4:50 p.m. Jerusalem Choir  
6:00 p.m. Youth Hangout  
6:00 p.m. Ways to Play

### Monday, March 13

**Church Office closed—Phone & computer networks down**  
11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Home Worship  
*Borst Home*

### Tuesday, March 14

10:00 a.m. Worship Staff Meeting  
1:30 p.m. Revelation Ringers

### Wednesday, March 15

5:30 p.m. Geneva Handbell Choir  
6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 16

7:00 p.m. Central Women

### Friday, March 17

No events scheduled

### Saturday, March 18

10:00 a.m. Faith and Mission  
7:00 p.m. Global Mission Dinner

### Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs  
9:00 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 a.m. Worship for the Lord's Day  
Youth Sunday  
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil  
12:15 p.m. Fellowship Lunch



## TONIGHT!

### CREATE A ZEN SPACE

Sunday, March 12 | 6:00 p.m.

Includes a light supper

### Zen and Now Clay Studio

2534-D Royal Place,

Tucker, GA 30084

Wear ~~clay~~ clothes - play clothes