

DECEMBER 17, 2017 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



While We Are Waiting, Come
Lauren Wright Pittman

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY CHANT AND MEDITATION ON VENI EMMANUEL

JOHN BEHNKE

(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

*Jesus says: I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
God sends good news to the oppressed.
Let us worship God.*

✦ HYMN NO. 362

REJOICE! REJOICE, BELIEVERS

LLANGLOFFAN

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.

We thank all the members of the congregation who donated Nativities for our sanctuary windows. We hope the diversity in size, style, and material is representative of the diversity in our world. More notes about Advent art are inside this bulletin.

Lectionary Texts for today:
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

For the younger ones among us:

Today we are talking about John the Baptist. John pointed people to Jesus and his job was to get people ready for Jesus. One reason John could do this was that he knew who we was and who he was not. John knew he was **not** the Messiah and he was **not** Elijah. John knew he was to lead people to Jesus. Sometimes we want to do what our friends are doing but can't. We have to remember that we are not members of their family but belong to our parents who may have different expectations and rules. There are also different expectations for us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Artist Lauren Wright Pittman created the bottle cap art design that hangs above the choir, and is on the cover of this bulletin. Reflecting on our Advent theme, "While We Are Waiting, Come," she says this: I started with the question, "What does waiting for hope / peace / love / joy look like?" I think waiting looks like surrendered prayer and devotion, like the person on the left, like desperately reaching out and moving into action like the person in the center, like head in hands, dejected, crying, sorrow - like the person on the right. I believe the theme suggests a stillness **and** action, and I think we all engage in waiting differently, so I wanted to image that diversity. The light bursting forth represents what we are waiting for. The light can also visually reference the star that guided the Magi.

(Continued in top of margin on the next page.)

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and love, we confess our lack of attention to the prophets and messengers you send. We confess that we do not keep our eyes peeled and our ears open to the ways that you are revealing yourself and announcing your message in our lives. We confess that we dismiss those who might be speaking for you who in our minds are not old enough, not educated enough, not refined enough. Open our hearts, our eyes, our ears, and our minds to watch and listen for your Word being proclaimed among us this day and always . . .

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING THE PEACE

✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 88, STANZA 7

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

FIONA MOORE-KEISH, MILLS RENTZ-BAKER, RACHEL AND ROB STEWART

We live in a world that hates to wait, and we celebrate a season of waiting.
We live in a world that loves bad news, and we preach good news to one another.
In the midst of despair, we lit a candle of hope.
In the midst of violence, we lit a candle of peace.
In the midst of sadness, we light a candle of joy.
May this candle remind us that God's joy is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.
While we are waiting, sing, O people.
While we are waiting, come, O Christ!

RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 92, STANZA 3

WAITING

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

PAGE 708, OT, PEW BIBLE

SECOND READING

JOHN 1:6-8, 9-28

PAGE 86, NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

ERASE. SPEAK. POINT.

MICHELLE HWANG

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN NO. 163

WILD AND LONE THE PROPHET'S VOICE

ABERYSTWYTH

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel,
whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve in love and faithfulness.
When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment
and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers.
These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully
and become a light to the nations.
The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age,
and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

DAVID COZAD

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung - See insert)*

MARK MILLER

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

GAUDETE!

J. EDMUND HUGHES

CHANCEL CHOIR

*Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus. Ex Maria virgine Gaudete!
Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus; Carmina laeticiae devote reddamus.
Deus homo factus est, natura mirante; Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.
Ezechielis porta clausa pertransitur; Unde Lux est orta salus invenitur.
Ergo nostra concio psallat jam in lustris; Benedicat Domino; Salus Regnostro.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!

The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; let us devoutly sing songs of joy.

God is made man, while nature wonders; the world is renewed by Christ the King.

The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; from where the Light has risen salvation is found.

Therefore let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification; let us bless the Lord;

Greetings to our King.

✠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. 96

ON JORDAN'S BANKS THE BAPTIST'S CRY

WINCHESTER NEW

✠CHARGE AND BLESSING

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *THE CANDLE OF HOPE*

LYONS

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

TOCCATA ON VENI EMMANUEL

JOHN BEHNKE

(Continued from previous page margin.)

Three strands of pink emanate from the center, referencing God's movement in the world, and the pink strands embrace the hands of the person on the left, honoring her prayer, embrace the heart of the person in the center, honoring his passion and action, and embrace the head of the person on the right, honoring their anxiety in waiting.

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.

We thank the many, many congregation members who brought in bottle caps to be recycled into our Advent art work. Worship, Music, and the Arts Ministry members and others who worked on the installation include Kitsy Battle, Vicki Collier, Steve Fey, Vicki Fey, Berta Irwin, Judy Kisla, Sandra McDonald, Leslie Pope, Anna George Traynham, Anne Watkins, Avery West, and David VanderMeer. We also thank Ellen Phillips for the Advent paper lace banners and Berta Irwin for the banners in the Vestibule. The Advent paraments were created by Camille Gaffron who made paraments for all the liturgical seasons.

WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our liturgists today are David Cozad and Anna George Traynham.
Today's lector is Harry Suazo.
Audio recordings of sermons may be found at 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	Associate Pastor
P. C. (Buddy) Enniss	Pastor Emeritus
David A. VanderMeer	Minister of Music and Fine Arts
Vicki Fey	Organist
Michael Morgan	Organist Emeritus

MEMBERS IN PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION AS MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Sarah Paulsen
Erin Burt
Julia Watkins

ALTERNATIVE GIFT SALE

TULL HALL

TODAY, DECEMBER 17

Before and After Worship

Come buy Christmas gifts with us and help make life better for our sisters and brothers around the world! Volunteers will be selling fair trade items, baked goods from Just Bakery, and offering giving opportunities to benefit the Haiti partnership or the Central Outreach and Advocacy Center.

THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

Becky Battle, captain
Karen Gravel ▪ Philip Covin
Sandy Hoke ▪ Jeff Dake
Ella Ruth Hunnicut ▪ Kevin Byers
Jean Ellen Jones

Greeters

Katie Leware ▪ Nancy Wilkes
Kathy Kohn ▪ Norm Kohn

Deacons of the Day

Fiona Moore-Keish ▪ Martha Haythorn

Sound Engineer

Jeff Spruell

Counters

Craig Knight ▪ John Heidbreder
Chris Sciarone

Collectors of Friendship Pads

The Heidbreder Family:
Ginger & Russell
The Lewis Amos Family:
Anne, Lewis, and Elizabeth
Katie Leware

Bell Ringer

Tusher Family

Choir Guild

Frances Padgett

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!

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 17

12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Alternative Gift Sale
12:15 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
2:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Caroling
Shepherd Center
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Party
Bucey Home

Monday, December 18

12:00 p.m. International Student Lunch
3:30 p.m. Caroling at Breman Center

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Program Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. Worship Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 20

6:00 p.m. Geneva Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21

No events scheduled

Friday, December 22

No events scheduled

Saturday, December 23

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
9:00 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir
11:00 a.m. Worship for the Lord's Day
Children's Pageant
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
5:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Christmas Eve Service
Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

6:00 a.m. Christmas Breakfast with
Shelter Guests



'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 Monday, December 18, 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 24.

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

This Gift is made in honor of: _____

or in memory of: _____

Amount of donation: _____