

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2, 2018 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY *NOW LET HEAVEN AND EARTH ADORE THEE*

J. S. BACH

CHANCEL CHOIR

Now let heaven and earth adore thee, let choirs and angels bow before thee,
With harp and lute in clearest tone!
Joined by faith to choir immortal we pass beyond thy pearl-built portal,
And sing before thy shining throne.

No human ear may hear, no eye may vision clear such joyous things;
Wherefore be glad our song outpour, praise God on high forevermore.

WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME

J. S. BACH

(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

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

Before God we gather, to God we lift up our lives.

We are thankful for the people gathering around us, for they are a gift from God.

May the faith of these people and the life-giving energy of God's Spirit move us towards the presence of Christ.

**We arrive expectantly, confident that God will lead us in worship,
touch us with the power of grace, and empower us to live boldly.**

We sing exuberantly, trusting that our voices of praise are music to God's ears.

By the grace of Christ, in the presence of God's people, let us worship God.

✦ HYMN NO. 82

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS
INTRODUCTION: YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

HYFRYDOL

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.

Leading the Advent Candle Lighting liturgy today are the Seniors in Central's Youth: Maria Baez, Lydia Catterall, Lily DeLaRue, Joseph Sciarrone, and Harry Suazo.

Lectionary Texts for today:
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

For the younger ones among us:

During December in our house, we display a nativity scene. Do you have one in your house? Are you allowed to handle it? Some families have two – one might be fragile and the other is okay for children to pick up the pieces and move them around. When yours comes out of its box this season, who places the figures? If you're allowed to touch them, you might want to move them around and see if anyone notices. Does the angel go above the manger? The Bible doesn't mention any angels there. Instead, the angels are with the shepherds, out in the fields. Where do you put the wise men? The Bible tells us they came from far away. In my house, they start out far away, but we move them closer as Christmas draws near. Use the figures in your crèche to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Read the story as told in Luke 2 and Matthew 2, looking for clues to help you decide where to put your nativity scene figures.

Dave Fry

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Advent God, come among us.
Awaken us to your presence and fill us with your love.
Forgive us when our hunger for justice gives way to our hunger for power
For 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.)

FROM CALL TO WORSHIP

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING THE PEACE

✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 107, STANZA 1

REJOICE, REJOICE

Awake, awake, and greet the morn, for angels herald its new dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The child of our longing.
Come as a baby, weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In hope, Israel dreamed of a Messiah so many years ago.
In hope, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem praying for hospitality.
In hope, the wise men followed a star believing that God would guide them along the way.
Like Israel, we sing, "Come, oh come, Emmanuel."
Like Mary and Joseph, we pray for a world that acts like we belong to one another.
Like the wise men, we travel to this space trusting that God draws near to us—guiding us along the way.
This Sunday, we light the candle of hope because we could not be Advent people without it.

May this candle remind us that God's light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God -
for in the light of this candle we can feel God's warmth, we can see more clearly,
and together, we can hope for a better day. Amen.

✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 91

COME, COME EMMANUEL

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

PSALM 25:1-10

PAGE 508, OT, PEW BIBLE

SECOND SCRIPTURE

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

PAGE 195 NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

DRAW NEAR TO WONDER: ~~DO NOT~~ TOUCH

DAVID FRY

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

RESPONDING TO AND SEALING THE WORD

✦ HYMN No. 104

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME
GENEVA HANDBELL CHOIR

BRENDA AUSTIN

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION

HYMN NO. 108, STANZA 6

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and , O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MICHELLE HWANG

*The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise . . .*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(If you require gluten-free elements, please go to the center station to the second set of servers.
If you wish to be served in your pew, indicate your desire to an usher.
Grape juice is offered in the silver chalices, wine in the crystal.)*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
CHANCEL CHOIR
(See text at Hymn No. 88)

ANDREW CARTER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN No. 105

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

BESANÇON

✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN NO. 103, STANZA 4

O-SO-SO

Come, hope of unity; make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

PAUL MANZ

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.

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.

Our thanks to the many people who contributed to creating a beautiful Advent environment: Avery West, the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee and members of the congregation for the Advent stars suspended from the Sanctuary ceiling, Berta Irwin, for the Advent hangings in the vestibule, Ellen Phillips and a cadre of banner cutters for the Advent banners hanging on each side of the Sanctuary, Camille Gaffron for the Advent paraments, and many, many congregation members for the wonderful nativity scenes in the windows surrounding us.

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



WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our liturgists today are Michelle Hwang and Anna George Traynham.

Our lector today is Trudy Loper.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in honor of Lynne Rea and Martha Kimes in commemoration of fifty years of faithful membership and dedicated service to Central.

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 Fry	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

SILENT NIGHT TAIZÉ SERVICE

Join us on Tuesday, December 4, in Rand Chapel, for a Silent Night Taizé Service with singing, prayers, and quiet reflection to support those for whom the Christmas holidays are especially difficult. It will be a service with music, candles, readings, and meditation, a place of quiet during the hustle and bustle of the season.

THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

Beth Grashof, captain
Brian Bishop ▪ Lee Ebeling
Em McNair ▪ Ben Evans
Keith Pascoe ▪ Jeff Figueroa
Trudy Loper

Greeters

Ann Bryan ▪ John Bryan

Sound Engineer

Dean Hammond

Counters

Kevin Byers ▪ Tom Holcomb

Bell Ringer

Chris Sciarrone

Collectors of Friendship Pads

The Bliss Family
Melanie, Jason, Ally, and Tyler
Trudy Loper and Carys Barr

Deacons of the Day

Mark Borst ▪ Jeff Figueroa

Choir Guild

Kathy McCloud

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.

All visitors and newer members are invited to the **Believing and Belonging** class to explore what Presbyterians believe, how those beliefs inform our life at Central, and what it means to *belong* in today's world of competing interests. The next class is **February 24** and **March 3** at 9:45 in the Parlor. For more information, contact Anna at atraynham@cpcatlanta.org.

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 2

12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Market
Tull Fellowship Hall
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service
Claire Pearson
Presbyterian Village
4:50 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 3

2:00 a.m. Interment of Ashes
Claire Pearson
3:00 p.m. All-Staff Meeting
4:00 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 4

12:00 p.m. Personnel Lunch for Staff
6:00 p.m. Labyrinth opens
7:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesday, December 5

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

Thursday, December 6

No events scheduled.

Friday, December 7

No events scheduled.

Saturday, December 8

No events scheduled.

Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
9:00 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir
9:45 a.m. Sunday School classes for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship for the Lord's Day
Anna George Traynham
preaching
12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party
Gravel Home



'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 *Seasonal 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 17, 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: _____