

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 9, 2018 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



For Those in Darkness
Luke 1:68-79
Lauren Wright-Pittman

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

ARR. ALAN FEY

BARBARA COOK, OBOE, AND ALAN FEY, MARIMBA

(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

CHORAL INTROIT

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE A THRONE

MARK PATTERSON

NAZARETH CHOIR; RACHEL STEWART, DIRECTOR; RICK WORNAT, ACCOMPANIST

Let every heart prepare a throne for soon the Child of Light will come.
Let every voice prepare a song to welcome Christ the Promised One.
Let every hand reach out with love to greet this gift from God above.
Make ready now, the Savior comes, the Prince of Peace, the Promised One.
So let the flame of Advent glow, each candle shines that all may know
the hope we need, so long foretold will soon be here for us to hold.

✦ OPENING SENTENCES

MICHELLE HWANG

*God has raised up a Savior for us.
Blessed be the Lord our God!
This Savior will wash us in tender mercy
and guide our feet into the way of peace.
Every valley shall be filled,
and all shall see the salvation of 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.

We welcome liturgical artist Lauren Wright-Pittman who will respond to our worship today by creating a painting during the service.

The Opening Voluntary for marimba and oboe was arranged by Alan Fey (son of our organist, Vicki Fey) who has played marimba at Central several times in the past. About this piece, Alan says about his arrangement of the tune *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*: This is one of five arrangements of Advent and Christmas carols all stemming from memories of hearing or singing these as a child. This hymn tune has had a Christmas connection for me since I sang it as a child with the Houston Children's Chorus. It was always sung keeping the chant-like rhythm, so that remained in most of this arrangement.

For the younger ones among us:

In today's scripture, the prophet John the Baptist is born and his father sings a song to praise God. He says, "God guide our feet into the way of peace!" We pray for peace every week: comfort from God, healing of broken relationships, and the sharing of love instead of violence. How can YOU share God's peace?

Our Advent Candle lighters this week are Central's "Peace Ladies": Betty Bolander, Peggy Hendrix, Ella Ruth Hunnicutt, Ellen Logan, and Bobbie Paul. Each week they carry the peace of Christ out from worship into the world.



Lectionary Texts for today:
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God, you draw near to us. Forgive us when we do not draw near to you.
You call us to follow in the path of your peace.
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way.
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way,
the fast way, the successful way, the nice way,
the friendly way, the comfortable way.
Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us
to follow the Way of peace and love . . .

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING THE PEACE

✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 753, STANZA 1

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADAPTED FROM A SANCTIFIED ART

Peace comes in beautiful moments: In moments when we hold hands around the table for grace or see siblings laughing at shared memories; In moments that we as a church share, when we baptize babies, or hear the choir sing in harmony; In moments when we hear God say again in scripture, "One day every valley will be lifted up," and, "Darkness did not overcome the light."

In such a broken world, we come to this sanctuary week after week and say, "The peace of Christ be with you," because we believe that God calls us to acts of peace and justice in the world.

We light this candle - the candle of peace - as a reminder that when we draw near to God, we are drawing near to peace.

(Light Candle of peace)

Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 91 *(Please sing twice)*

COME, COME EMMANUEL

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

MALACHI 3:1-4

PAGE 918, OT, PEW BIBLE

ANTHEM

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD FROM MESSIAH
CHANCEL CHOIR

G. F. HANDEL

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

SECOND SCRIPTURE

LUKE 1:57-80

PAGE 54 NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

THE THEOLOGY OF PREPOSITIONS

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

RESPONDING TO AND SEALING THE WORD

✦ HYMN No. 109

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

MERLE'S TUNE

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM LAUGHING BIRD LITURGICAL RESOURCES

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ,
God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn,
who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.
For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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 OSOSO: COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE

LEE/NAVARRO

CHANCEL, JERUSALEM, AND NAZARETH CHOIRS AND BARBARA COOK, OBOE
Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now, O God of love, make us one body; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
Come, Hope of unity, make us one body; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION

ADVENT DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

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. A-men.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN No. 373

O DAY OF PEACE

JERUSALEM

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN No. 113, REFRAIN

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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.

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.

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 Dave Fry and Michelle Hwang.

Our lector today is Anne Watkins.

Last Sunday's lector was incorrectly listed in the bulletin. The lector was Ellie Harbert.

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

THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

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

Greeters

Shirley Landrum ▪ Deanna Robbins

Sound Engineer

Kim McNair

Collectors of Friendship Pads

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

Choir Guild

Ann Hunter

Deacons of the Day

Debbie Miller ▪ Ed Carwile

Bell Ringer

Tom Banyai

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 9

12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Market
Tull Fellowship Hall
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m. Jerusalem Choir
5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party
Gravel Home

Monday, December 10

2:00 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 11

No events scheduled.

Wednesday, December 12

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

Thursday, December 13

7:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party
VanderMeer/Ivey home

Friday, December 14

7:00 p.m. Worship Min. Christmas Party
VanderMeer/Ivey home

Saturday, December 15

No events scheduled.

Sunday, December 16

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
Michelle Hwang preaching
12:15 p.m. Celebration honoring Michelle
Hwang as she leaves for her new
call
12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
6:30 p.m. Adult Choirs Christmas Party
Fahey home

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.



@centralpresat



'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: _____