

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 16, 2018 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY PASTORALE FROM CHRISTMAS CONCERTO

ARCANGELO CORELLI

BENJAMIN DAWSON, VIOLIN, AND VICKI FEY, ORGAN

(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

*We gather because we are waiting.
We are waiting for the coming of Christ anew.
We work because we are waiting.
We are waiting for a world of love and justice.
We worship because we are waiting.
We are waiting for God, whose glory is about to be revealed.*

DAVID FRY

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.

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!

Lectionary Texts for today:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

For the younger ones among us:

This is the third Sunday of Advent-the time we wait for Christ’s coming into our world. This third Sunday is also a Sunday where we remember how Christ brings JOY into our lives. Jesus’ joy is about helping one another. To be joy-filled is to think of the people around you. Can you think of people in your life who could use your help? By helping we see a bit of what God desires for us-pure joy!

Today’s Candle Lighters are Lucy Baum, Sarah Helwig, Lucy Strong, and Amber Tittle.

We welcome violinist Benjamin Dawson to play for us in worship today. Benjamin, a composer and violinist, is a native of Abingdon, Virginia, and several time winner of the Bristol (TN/VA) Music Club Scholarship auditions. He is currently pursuing his D.M.A. in composition at the University of Georgia. He was Adjunct Professor at East Tennessee State University and King University in Bristol.



✦CALL TO CONFESSION

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John the Baptist proclaimed, “whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” We confess that we do not always do this. Our closets are overstuffed and our cabinets overflow while people around the world freeze and starve. Help us, gracious God, to share the joy of blessing with others around us. May we remember that as long as there is one cold person left in the world, as long as there is one hungry person left in the world, we still have work to do . . .

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING THE PEACE

✦RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 107, STANZA 4

REJOICE, REJOICE

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We sing, “Joy to the world!” Joy to the world.
The whole world. The world God has in God’s hands.

The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.
The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.
The world of honeysuckle and evergreen, morning snow and firesides.

Joy to the world! Joy to this world,
To every person and to every dream.
Joy to you. Joy to me.
Today, we light the candle of Joy.

Joy to the world - For love is real, and God is here.
The sun will shine. Darkness will not overcome it.

Joy to the world!
Joy to this world. Amen.

RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 91

COME, COME EMMANUEL

(Please sing twice)

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 12:2-6

PAGE 655, OT, PEW BIBLE

ANTHEM

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION
CHANCEL CHOIR AND BENJAMIN DAWSON, VIOLIN
(See text at Hymn No. 106)

KENNETH DAKE

SECOND SCRIPTURE

LUKE 3:7-18

PAGE 56 NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

MICHELLE HWANG

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

RESPONDING TO AND SEALING THE WORD

✦ HYMN No. 92

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME

WAITING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

GAUDETE!
GENEVA HANDBELL CHOIR

ARR. MICHAEL GLASGOW

✦ AT THE PRESENTATION

ADVENT DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. 366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

HYFRYDOL

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, for the ministry of Michelle Hwang:

For the leadership she has shared with us,

Teaching and learning with our children, youth, and adults.

For the compassion and comfort she has shown us,

Caring for us in our times of joy and sorrow.

For the lessons she has taught us and stories she has told us,

Nurturing our faith and challenging our minds.

Together with Michelle, we have been a branch of the church of Jesus Christ.

May our time together end with your blessing, O God,

as you touch our memories with your grace and peace.

We give you thanks that you call us to new ventures as you continue to birth your church.

Grant us faith to go out with courage, knowing that your hand is leading us

and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN No. 134, STANZA 2

ANTIOCH

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

CHRIST IS COMING! (UNSER HERRSCHER)

HELMUT WALCHA

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.

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 Anna George Traynham.

Our lector today is Phyllis Lloyd.

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) Ennis	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

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Please join us in Tull Fellowship Hall today after worship give thanks for Michelle Hwang's work among us and celebrate her new call.



@centralpresatl

THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

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

Greeters

Nancy Wilkes
Kathy Kohn ▪ Norm Kohn

Deacons of the Day

Chantal Tusher ▪ Kristeen Sorrells

Sound Engineer

Jeff Spruell

Counters

Craig Knight ▪ John Heidbreder
Chris Sciarone

Collectors of Friendship Pads

The Heidbreder Family:
The Lewis Amos Family:

Bell Ringer

Lynne Rea

Choir Guild

Ann Hunter

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 16

12:15 p.m.	Celebration luncheon honoring Michelle Hwang
12:15 p.m.	Alternative Gift Market
12:15 p.m.	Peace Vigil
12:45 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.	Adult Choirs Christmas Party <i>Fahey home</i>

Monday, December 17

2:00 p.m.	Program Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m.	Worship Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 18

No events scheduled.

Wednesday, December 19

11:30 a.m.	International Students' Luncheon
5:30 p.m.	Geneva Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 20

No events scheduled.

Friday, December 21

No events scheduled.

Saturday, December 22

No events scheduled.

Sunday, December 23

9:00 a.m.	Children's Choirs
9:00 a.m.	Youth Handbell Choir
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School classes for all ages
9:45 a.m.	Pageant Rehearsal
11:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols
12:15 p.m.	Peace Vigil
12:15 p.m.	Pageant Dress Rehearsal



'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: _____