



September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWICH.

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

Meditation on RESIGNATION

Dale Wood

As the Opening Voluntary begins, please use the time to center yourself for worship.

Welcome

Christian Antwi

Ring of The Bell

As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshipping God.



When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

 Call to Worship Christian Antwi

Sometimes we wonder how we have gotten through some difficult situations.

God has been with us, lifting and comforting our spirits.

We struggle and worry.

God's loving presence sustains and strengthens us.

Listen for God's call to you.

Lord, we are listening and seeking your guidance. Amen.

Hymn 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

 Call to Confession Christian Antwi

 Prayer of Confession

Patient Lord, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

 Assurance of Pardon

 Passing of The Peace

Response Hymn 587

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Proclaiming The Word

A Time With Children Christian Antwi

First Lesson Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 Matt Baum

Second Lesson Mark 9:38-50 Jasiel H. Garcia

Sermon “Resistance Stories” Jasiel H. Garcia

Silence and Stillness

Responding to The Word



Affirmation of Faith

John M. Semmes

A DECLARATION OF FAITH (1.4)

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together with his people's response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe.

Anthem

I See the Heaven's Glories Shine

Andrea Ramsey

No coward soul is mine, No trembler in this world's storm-troubled sphere:
I see the Heaven's glories shine, and faith shines equal, arming me from fear.

O God within my breast, Almighty, ever-present Deity!
Life, that in me has rest, as I, undying life, have power in Thee!

With wide-embracing love Thy Spirit animates eternal years,
pervades and broods above, changes, sustains, dissolves, preserves, creates, revives, and rears.

Though earth and man were gone, and suns and universes ceased to be,
and Thou wert left alone, ev'ry existence would exist in Thee.

There is not room for Death, nor atom that his might could render void:
since Thou art Being and Breath, and what Thou art may never be destroyed.

-PART OF A POEM BY EMILY BRONTË, ALT. ANDREA RAMSEY

Prayers of the People

John M. Semmes



The Lord's Prayer

TRADITIONAL

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Hymn 74

When God Restored Our Common Life

RESIGNATION

Benediction

Jasiel H. Garcia

Closing Voluntary

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Edwin T. Childs

Participating in Worship Today

Worship Staff

John M. Semmes, Interim Pastor
Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,
Associate Pastor for Engagement and Mission
P. C. (Buddy) Enniss, Pastor Emeritus
Christian Antwi, Director, Ministries to Children,
Youth, and Families
Jennifer Sengin, Interim Choral Director
Vicki Fey, CCM, Organist/Bethlehem Choir Director
Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus

Matt Baum, Lector
Frances Padgett, Choir Guild
Steve Fey, Tower Bell Ringer

Worship Production Staff

Mark Wallace Maguire, Director of Communications
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director
Kurt Vogel, A/V Assistant
Sam Patton, Audio Engineer

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Em McNair
Kathy Harben
Kaye Carmichael

TAIZÉ LIVE

Please join us for the return of an in person Taizé service on Tuesday, October 5 at 7 p.m. In order to properly distance, the service will be held in the sanctuary and the garage will be open for parking. As you come up out of the garage and up the steps, please follow the cloistered walk around to the courtyard and enter through the Tull Hall door, where someone will be waiting to let you in. If you must park on Washington Street, please notify Vicki Fey in advance and assistance will be provided. All persons will be expected to follow the church's standard protocols on mask wearing while in the building. The service will also be live streamed. While there will not be a service in November, we will hold a service for healing and wholeness on Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Be present with us in this time of meditation, scripture, music, and silence.

If you would like to be on the list of ringers, send an email to Vicki Fey at (vfey@cpclatlanta.org).

667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

Alleluia!

587

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981; harm. Christopher Walker, 1985

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (Published by OCP)

CELTIC ALLELUIA

When God Restored Our Common Life

74

(Psalm 126)

1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -
 2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing
 3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -

ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
 soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
 pressed. May those who long for what is right with

wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a shock of joy swept
 fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who
 jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who

o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the
 gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The
 mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may

seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This paraphrase brings Psalm 126 to life in two ways: by turning the "they" of the final verses of the psalm to "we," and by adding a prayer for all who still wait for release from oppression. The shape note tune provides just the right balance of gratitude and urgency.

Visiting Central?

Whether we are together in person or being the body of Christ from afar, Central is a community of faith that offers a great variety of opportunities for you to connect and find a place to belong:

Worship: On Sundays, our in-person worship service takes place at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Central's Chancel Choir has resumed and is participating during worship services.

Learning: Our Fall classes include "Delivered out of Empire: Pivotal Moments in the Book of Exodus," "The Christian Imagination - Theology and the Origins of Race," "Friends on the Journey: an Anti-Racism Community Building," "Coffee & Connections: Conversations about Life and Faith," and "The Bible and Poverty."

Fellowship: Our fellowship blooms across ministries - children and youth, college and young adults, parents and older adults, and other Central Life Groups that offer meaningful connections.

Service: From serving meals and coffee to our neighbors experiencing homelessness at the courtyard on Sunday mornings to traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, and Haiti; Central offers opportunities for faithful missionary service and advocacy support in Atlanta and beyond.

You may also serve in our hospitality and the A/V and communications ministries.

We welcome you at
Central Presbyterian Church!

For more information, please connect with our associate pastor, Rev. Jasiel H. Garcia at jhernandez@cpcatlanta.org

Central Care Teams

Central's diaconate is launching a new initiative called 'Central Care Teams.' Each team is composed of two to four deacons assigned to a particular Central parish. These teams will lead the church's caring and support efforts by:

- 1) Coordinating meal-trains & communicating other care-related needs to the parish.
- 2) Scheduling and coordinating care visits and in-home communion.
- 3) Assisting with funerals and memorial services.
- 4) Participating in the planning for Maundy Thursday in-home worship services.

The Care Teams will collaborate with Parish Coordinators and the Pastoral Staff. For more information, you may contact Eleanor Dake and Amy Covin.

The Care Teams for 2021-2022 are:

Decatur - Ed Carwile, Eleanor Dake, and Rob Forbes.

Northern Lights - Vicki Collier, Ginger Heidbreder, Zac Hilimire, and Brian Bishop.

In-Town South - Linda Lehfelddt, Ben Sutton, Sandy Hoke, Amy Covin*, and Phillip Covin.*

In-Town North - Jan DeLong, Tom Leslie, and Debbie Miller.*

Brookwood - Ben Evans, Vicki Norman.

Down Yonder - Anne Watkins, Kathy McCloud, LaShawn Green, Emmalee Hackshaw, and Em McNair.*

*represents the current Parish Coordinators.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year as we care for one another and share the love of God at Central.

Give

Please give generously to support Central's work and mission in this time of great need! You can scan the QR code to give via our secure portal.





Central Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 Congregation. As such, we are committed to:

1. Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

We do so through the work of our Learning and Worship ministries, and through the Session's vision for community building and advocacy support for this program year.

2. Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

We do so through the work of the Dismantling Racism Task Group's consultation with VISIONS Inc. to better equip ourselves, and through the faithful conversations of "Friends on the Journey."

3. And eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

We do so through the work of the Local and Global Missions Committee, the Cozad Task Force, and the Pollard and Covenant Grant Discernment Team.