

October 10, 2021 20th Sunday after Pentecost Worship begins at 11 a.m.



'CAMEL THROUGH THE EYE,' BY BERTRAM POOLE

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise arr. Christian Imboden

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

Welcome Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Ringing of The Bell

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



Call to Worship
ADAPTED FROM PSALM 90

Living God, teach us to count our days so that we may gain a wise heart.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad even when we see days that afflict us.

Let your work be manifest to your servants here, and give your glorious power to our children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us as we worship with open hearts and minds.

Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

+ Call to Confession

Christian Antwi

Prayer of Confession

God of eternal mercy, we have held onto our pride and we have made it our banner in a rebellion against you. We confess that we rely too much on our own strength and resist your willingness to carry our burdens. In our foolishness, we take matters into our own hands and neglect being your hands and feet. The world has been mistreated by our mistake in believing solely in ourselves, and we are witnessing the consequences of our actions. The path you have laid before us is a long journey, but you have walked it before us, you walk it next to us and you will carry us through. Though we may wander, you are faithful to lead us back to the path to your glory. God, rid our hearts that are filled with pride, prejudice and rebellion and create in us a heart that listens to your will. Be with us in our times of mistaking our will for yours and lead us on the path of grace, mercy and love.

♣ Assurance of Pardon

• Passing of The Peace

Response Hymn

Love Astounding

HOLY MANNA

Love receiving Love believing,
we rejoice with thanks and song,
faith regaining, hope proclaiming; Love has taught us,
we belong safe within Love's tender keeping,
safe from fear's persistent call.
Love defending, Love unending,
Love of God enfolding all.

-Text, copyright 1999 Jeannette M. Lindholm in Songs for the Holy Other.

Proclaiming The Word

A Time With Children Christian Antwi

First Lesson Psalm 90:12-17 Chris Sciarrone

Second Lesson Mark 10:17-31

Lectors: Lee Carroll, Marcia Catterall, Matyas Figueroa, Trace Haythorn, Kathy McCloud, Chris Sciarrone Matt Baum, Director

Sermon "Cuffed" John M. Semmes

Silence and Stillness

Responding to The Word



Affirmation of Faith

John McCrosky

A DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ, we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, and to hope for what we have not seen.

Anthem Walk in Jerusalem African-American Spiritual arr. Rollo A. Dilworth

I want to be ready.
I want to be ready.
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.
Are you ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John?

John said the city was jus' four square. Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John. And he declared he'd meet me there. Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John. O John, O John, what do you say? Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John. That I'll be there in the comin' day. Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

Are you ready to walk? Yes, I'm ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John!

The Lord's Prayer FROM "HUMAN RITES: Worship Resources for an Age of Change"

Beloved,
our Father and Mother,
in whom is heaven,
hallowed be your name,
followed be your royal way,
done be your will and rule, throughout the whole creation.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever.
Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

 ♣ Hymn 721
 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
 PESCADOR DES HOMBRES

 Christian Imboden, guitar
 John M. Semmes

 ♣ Choral Response
 Love is Love is Love words compiled and music arranged by Abbie Betinis, 2017

Love is love is love is love.

Love, love, love, all we need is love, love, love.

Ubi caritas et amor. Where there's love, love is love.

Closing Voluntary Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise arr. Timothy Albrecht

We invite you to continue this time of fellowship in the Courtyard following worship.

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Participating in Worship Today

Lectors: Chris Sciarrone, Lee Carroll, Marcia Catterall, Matyas Figueroa, Trace Haythorn, Kathy McCloud, Chris Sciarrone. Matt Baum, Lector Director Christian Imboden, guitar Mary Jane Cornell, Choir Guild Chris Sciarrone Tower Bell Ringer

Worship Staff

The John M. Semmes, Interim Pastor and Head of Staff
The Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,
Associate Pastor for Engagement and Mission
The Rev. 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,
Geneva Handbell Director
Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus
Thom Dixon, Music Intern
Dennis Lau, Music Intern
John McCrosky, Pastoral Intern

Worship Production Staff

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

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof Becky Battle Philip Covin Richard Woodring Sandy Hoke

SURVEY TIME!

You're invited to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping Central's Session as they make important decisions about the Central's future.

In a few days, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning at noon October 17, we ask that you go online using the provided link to tell us about your experiences in, and priorities for, our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their own experience.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent upon your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact David Enniss at <u>denniss@atlantaga.gov</u> or call 404-964-1767.

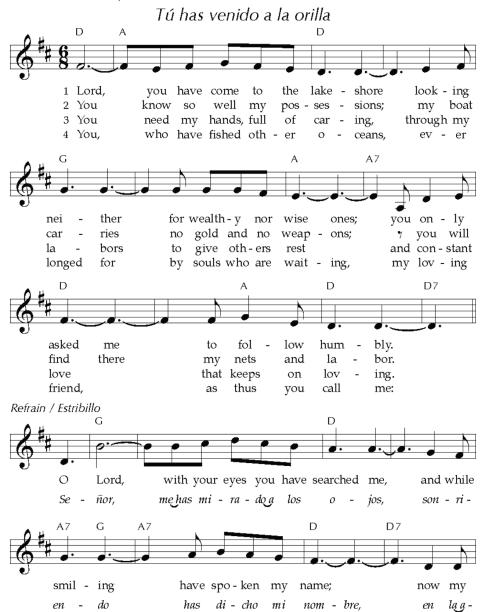
As we recognize that Atlanta won't be holding its Pride Parade again this year, we want to acknowledge our friends who see themselves as members of the "Holy Other" in addition to members of Central's faith family as we sing a congregational response and the choir sings a choral response following the benediction. The response following the Passing of the Peace is the second stanza of a hymn from a collection called "Songs of the Holy Other" and is set to the familiar HOLY MANNA hymn tune. The choral response may sound familiar to many, as the choir sang it as part of the "Love Is..." collaborative concert in February 2020. Titled "Love Is Love Is Love" it was compiled and arranged by Abbie Betinis in 2017. She says of the song, "This song is dedicated to the victims and survivors of hate crimes everywhere, and specifically for those at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando in June 12, 2016. Love is often the bravest thing we do. May love prevail."

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore



This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious song in Spain. It asks singers to become like the fishermen who left boats and nets to follow Jesus, first as disciples learning his way of love, then as apostles carrying that love to others.

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 Lehfeldt, 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.