



December 12, 2021
The Third Sunday of Advent
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on LLANGLOFFAN

Kevin J. Sadowski

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

Welcome

Christian Antwi

Ringling 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.

My soul Magnifies the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

God sends good news to the oppressed.

Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.

Congregational Response

Hymn 85 Stanza 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

✠ Call to Worship

Christian Antwi

Come and rejoice in God!

Sing praise to God, who continually blesses our lives!

In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

Our hope is in the Lord.

Let all the people praise God.

Hallelujah! Amen.

✠ Hymn 362

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

✠ Call to Confession

Christian Antwi

✠ Prayer of Confession

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted; we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound, and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often, we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather, to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now, cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

- ✠ Assurance of Pardon
- ✠ Passing of the Peace
- ✠ Hymn 92, Stanza 1

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

During the response hymn, children are invited to come forward for A Time With Children.

Proclaiming the Word

A Time With Children		Christian Antwi
Prayer for Illumination		Philip Covin
First Lesson	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Philip Covin
Second Lesson	Philippians 4:1,4-9	Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia
Sermon	“Again...Rejoice!”	Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia
Silence and Stillness		

Responding to the Word

- ✠ Affirmation of Faith
- ADAPTED FROM 1 PETER 1:4-9

John McCrosky

We have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for us. Through his faithfulness, we are guarded by God’s power so that we can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time. We now rejoice in this hope, even if it’s necessary for us to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that our faith may be found genuine. (Our faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Our genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for us when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although we’ve never seen him, we love him. Even though we don’t see him now, we trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. We are receiving the goal of our faith: our salvation.

Anthem

Deep Peace

Elaine Hagenberg

DEEP PEACE OF THE RUNNING WAVE TO YOU.

DEEP PEACE OF THE FLOWING AIR TO YOU.

DEEP PEACE OF THE QUIET EARTH TO YOU.

DEEP PEACE OF THE SHINING STARS TO YOU.

DEEP PEACE OF THE GENTLE NIGHT TO YOU.

MOON AND STARS POUR THEIR HEALING LIGHT ON YOU.

DEEP PEACE OF CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD TO YOU. -A GAELIC BLESSING

Prayers of the People

The Rev. John M. Semmes

The Lord's Prayer

PARKER J. PALMER

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,

Holy and blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come,

we pray that your good will be done,

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days

— Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.

For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:

Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World



Hymn 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy
(sing three times)

THE TREES OF THE FIELD



Benediction

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Closing Voluntary

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Raymond H. Haan

The congregation is invited to be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

Music is printed under

Onelicense.netAA-710014 | CCS License No. 11974 | CCLI License No. 1950421

Participating in Worship Today

Philip Covin, Lector
Chris Sciarrone, Tower Bell Ringer
Ted Brothers and Mike Coleman, Lighting of the Advent Candle
Frances Padgett, Choir Guild

Worship Staff

The Rev. 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
Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Interim Choral Director
Vicki Fey, CCM, Organist, Bethlehem Choir Director,
Geneva Handbell Director
Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus
Thomas 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
Sam Patton, Audio Engineer
Kurt Vogel, A/V Assistant
Jason Bliss, A/V Assistant

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Charles Rooks
Kathy Kohn
Norm Kohn
Kathy McCloud
Martha Haythorn

Alternative Christmas

Market is today after the service!

Global Mission is bringing back Central's Alternative Christmas Market today following worship.

At this event, you can learn more about our various mission partners and how you can support them.

We encourage you to read Central's Advent Magazine and pay close attention to the 12 ministries highlighted for this year so that you may be ready to contribute.

Additionally, we will feature Central member Khalia Johnson's gorgeous baskets from Kenya to benefit "We Are Wendo" (www.wearewendo.com), a non-profit subsidiary of Kemie Nix's organization, Children's Literature for Children.

Opportunities for shopping, making donations, and enjoying delicious treats will be available before and after worship including coffee, chocolate, and olive oil from Equal Exchange and Cafe Justo!

Looking ahead

Our Christmas Eve children's service will premiere virtually at Noon, December 24, and be available for viewing thereafter. The traditional service for Christmas Eve will be held in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm, with prelude music beginning at 4:45. The service will also be livestreamed. Masks will be required.



Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
 light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the “waiting” theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1–13. The tune name meaning “deep in the forest” comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.

TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984

MUSIC: Yiddish folk song; arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984

Text and Music Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

TIF IN VELDELE

10.7.9.6

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

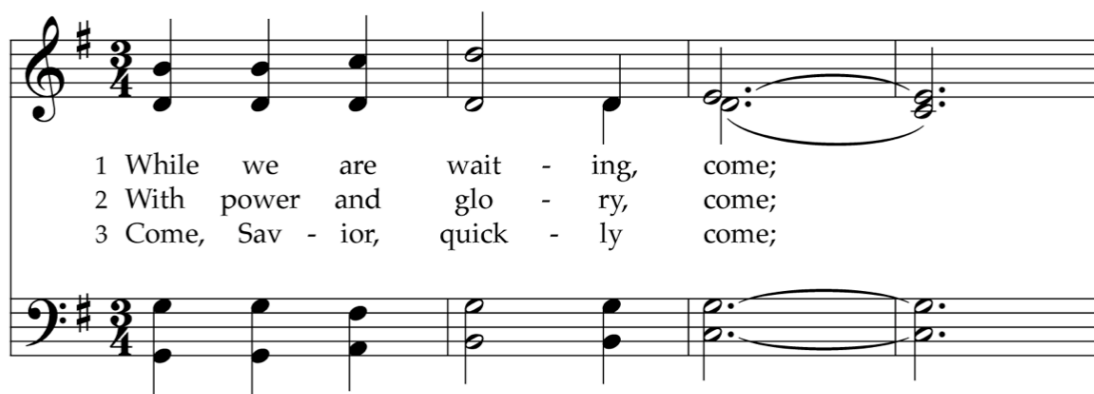
the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

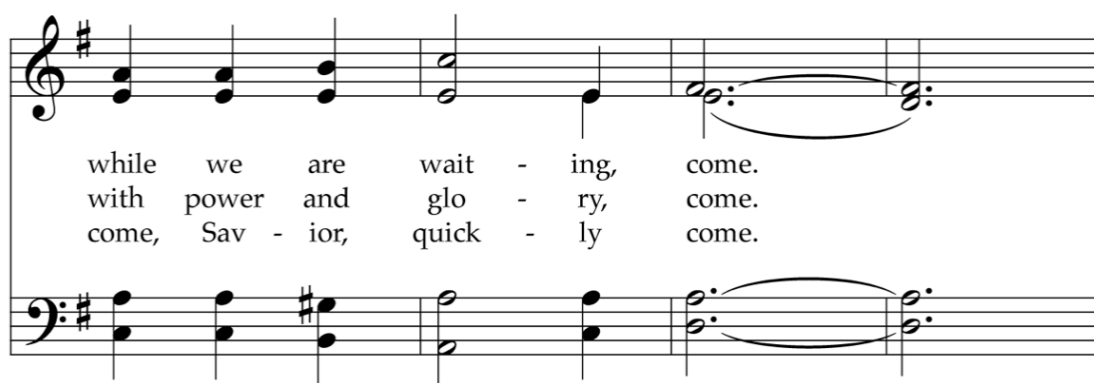
Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1–13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

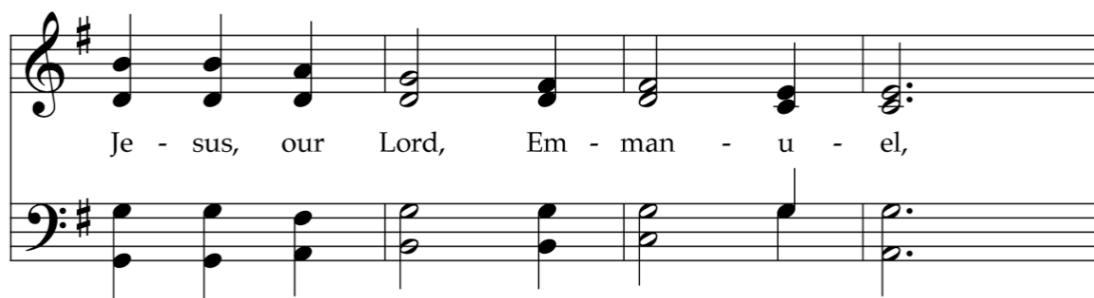
92 While We Are Waiting, Come



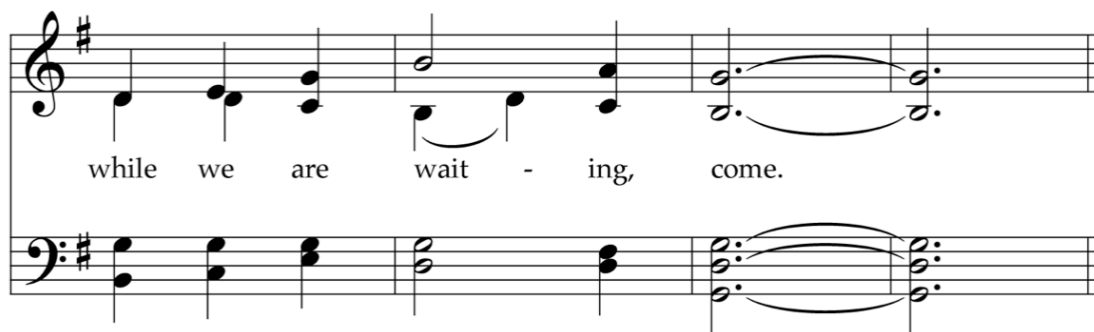
1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

You Shall Go Out with Joy 80

The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

* D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.

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 Lehfeltdt, 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.