



December 26, 2021
The First Sunday of Christmas
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

O Wondrous Star

arr. John Troutman

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

Welcome

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.

✠ Call to Worship

Praise God, our Creator, who is always at work in our lives and our communities!

We are being created. We are no longer afraid.

Praise Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who came to us as a precious newborn and lived among us, showing us how to clothe ourselves with love!

We have been redeemed. We are no longer afraid.

Praise the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer, who claims us in the waters of baptism, who gives us courage to pray without ceasing, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace!

We will be sustained. We are no longer afraid.

Come, let us worship God!

✠ Hymn 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
ADAPTED FROM STEPHEN FEARING, A FRIEND OF CENTRAL.

God of grace, you call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. However, we often clothe ourselves with different attire: apathy, hatred, arrogance, and brashness. Help us to bear one another and forgive each other, even as we ask forgiveness from you. Help us to don the clothing of love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. This we pray in the name of your Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 132 Stanza 3

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCIJUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time With Children

Prayer for Illumination

Zac Hilimire

First Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

Zac Hilimire

Second Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

Susan Landrum

Sermon

“In God’s House”

Susan Landrum

Silence and Stillness

Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Eden Joy Nix

Presentation

Abi Joy Nix and John Arthur Nix Jr.

Vows

Abi Joy Nix and John Arthur Nix Jr.



Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Rev. Oscar McCloud

Act of Baptizing

Rev. Oscar McCloud

Blessing

Hymn 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

NRSV, INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE; USE THE WORDS CLOSEST TO YOUR HEART

**Our Creator/Father, who art in heaven.
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom/Realm 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/Realm,
the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 691	<i>Lord, When I Came into This Life</i>	LAND OF REST
✠ Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	<i>From Thy Throne So High</i>	C. W. Gluck

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

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Participating in Worship Today

Susan Landrum, Guest Preacher
Zac Hilimire, Lector
Clayton Heidebreder, organ
Chris Sciarrone, Tower Bell Ringer
Rev. Oscar McCloud

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, Choral Director

Vicki Fey, CCM, Organist,
Bethlehem Choir Director, Geneva Handbell
Director
Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus
Thomas Dixon, Music Intern
Dennis Lau, Music 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

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

Lord, When I Came into This Life 691

1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
 2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
 3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
 4 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
 tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
 let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

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Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)

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.