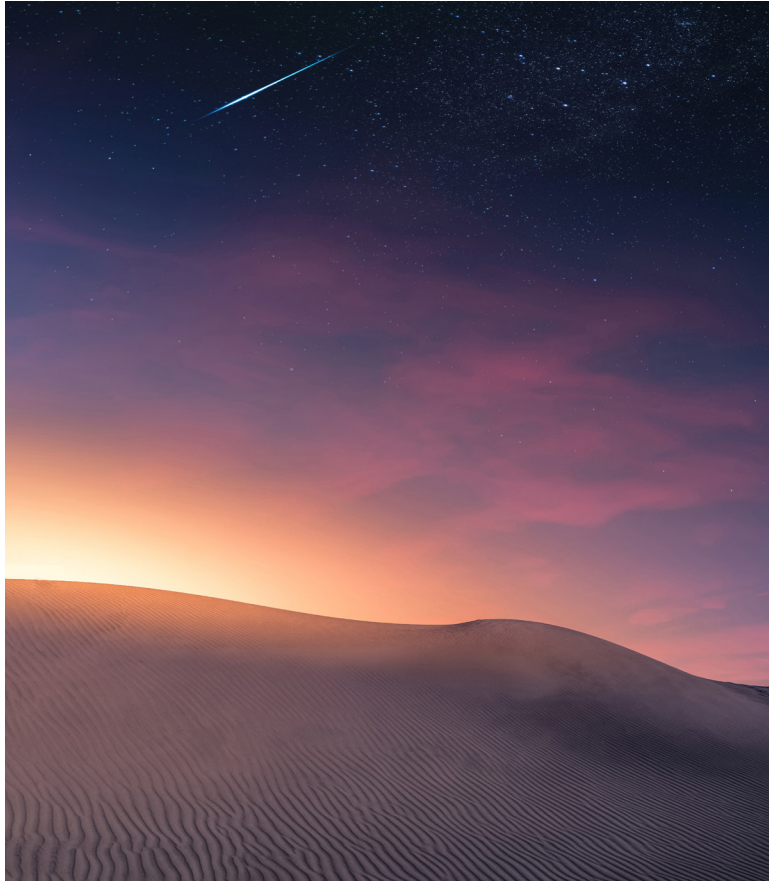




January 2, 2022
The Second Sunday after Christmas
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

Adagio (from Symphony V)

Charles-Marie Widor

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

Welcome

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

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

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

✠ Hymn 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

✠ Call to Confession

Christian Antwi

✠ Prayer of Confession

All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. Amen.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 150 Stanza 4

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

**Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.**

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

Anne Sciarrone

First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Anne Sciarrone

Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Sermon

“Under the Star”

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Silence and Stillness

Responding to the Word



Affirmation of Faith

Christian Antwi

2010 BOOK OF ORDER, G-3.0102

God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, who announced good news to the poor, proclaimed release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, let the broken victims go free, and proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; in his life and death for others, God's redeeming love for all people was made visible; and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is the assurance of God's victory over sin and death and the promise of God's continuing presence in the world.

Prayers of the People

Christian Antwi

The Lord's Prayer

RETRANSLATION (FROM THE ARAMAIC)

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

Bearing and Following the Word into the World



Hymn 150 Stanzas 1-3

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX



Benediction

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Closing Voluntary

In Thee is Gladness

J. S. Bach

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

Participating in Worship Today

Victoria Shorokhova, Organist
Anne Sciarrone, Lector
Bobbie Paul, Tower Bell Ringer

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

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
Em McNair
Isabelle Werber
Kevin Byers
Martha Kimes
Shelley Parnes

673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

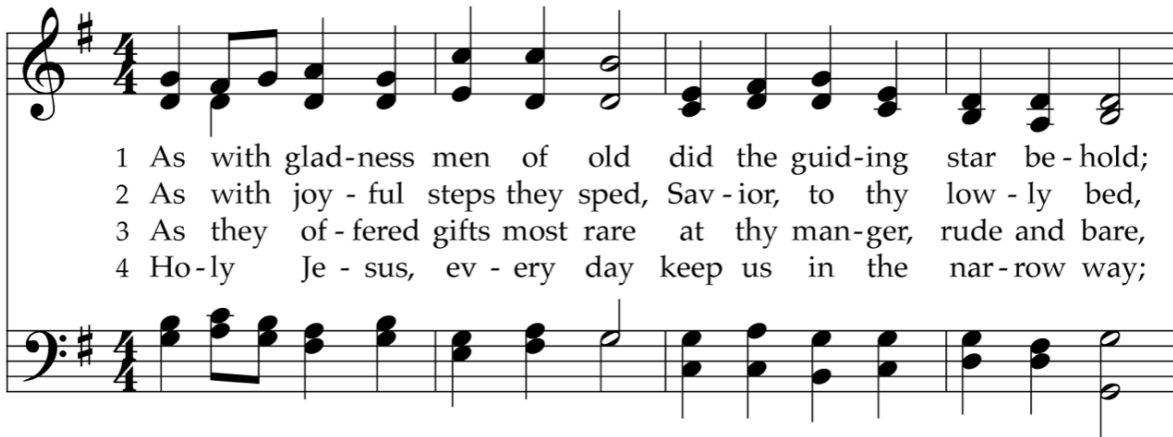
glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

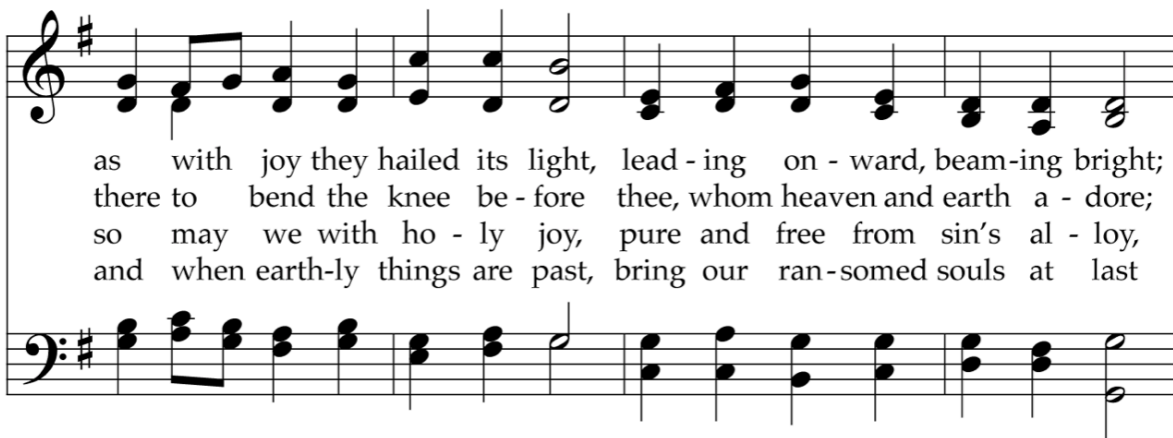
al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

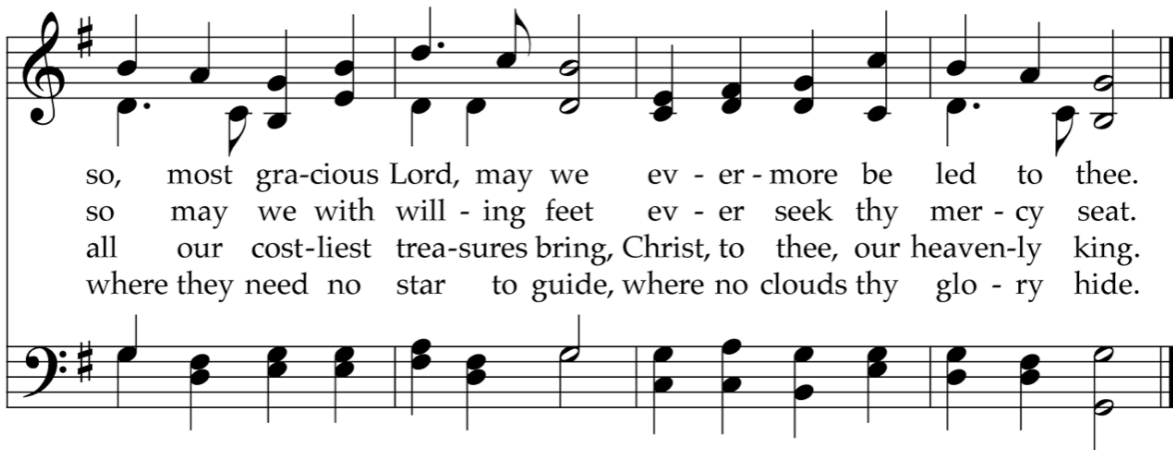
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

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: We have an array of upcoming classes in 2022, we will be publicizing soon

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.