



# Central Presbyterian Church

March 6, 2022  
The First Sunday in Lent  
11 a.m.



'TEMPTATION OF CHRIST,' BY CHRIS COOK

## Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

*Variations on Forty Days and Forty Nights*

arr. John Knox

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

Welcome

Christian Antwi

Ringling of the Bell

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*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.  
Please silence your phones.

✠ Call to Worship

Christian Antwi

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.

**We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.**

Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power; if he tested God's commitment to him.

**In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.**

May our commitment be as strong.

**May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey.**

✠ Hymn 167

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

✠ Call to Confession

Christian Antwi

✠ Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

✠ Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy on us.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

✠ Passing of the Peace

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art;  
freely let me take of thee.  
Spring thou up within my heart.  
Rise to all eternity.**

*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		Tina Sizemore
First Lesson	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Tina Sizemore
Second Lesson	Luke 4:1-13	Rev. John M. Semmes
Sermon	“The Wilderness of Fear”	Rev. John M. Semmes
Silence and Stillness		

## Responding to the Word

✠ Affirmation of Faith Christian Antwi  
A DECLARATION OF FAITH, 6.2

**The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God’s Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God’s Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.**

Anthem	<i>Hush! Somebody’s Callin’ My Name</i>	trad. Spiritual/ arr. Brazeal W. Dennard
	Chancel Choir; Kristina Tullgren, soloist	

HUSH, HUSH, SOMEBODY'S CALLIN' MY NAME.  
OH, MY LORD, OH, MY LORD, WHAT SHALL I DO?  
I'M SO GLAD THAT TROUBLE DON'T LAST ALWAYS.  
OH, MY LORD, OH, MY LORD, WHAT SHALL I DO?  
I'M SO GLAD I GOT MY 'LIGION IN TIME.  
(HALLELUJAH, LORD! OH, GLORY, LORD!)  
OH, MY LORD, OH, MY LORD, WHAT SHALL I DO?  
SOON ONE MORNIN' DEATH COME CREEPIN' IN MY ROOM.  
OH, MY LORD, OH, MY LORD, WHAT SHALL I DO? HUSH, HUSH...

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Rev. John M. Semmes

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christian Antwi

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

Christian Antwi

TRADITIONAL VERSION

**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.**

Words of Institution

Rev. John M. Semmes

*As an usher directs, please come forward, receive a piece of bread, take an individual cup of juice, and return to your pew for silent prayer before partaking in communion from your seat.*

Prayer After Communion

Rev. John M. Semmes

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

✠ Benediction Rev. John M. Semmes

Closing Voluntary *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* David Cherwien

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

# Participating in Worship Today

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Tower Bell Ringer, Jason Bliss  
Lector, Tina Sizemore  
Kristina Tullgren, soloist  
Chancel Choir  
Choir Guild, Jane Conyers

## 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, Organist/Music Associate  
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

## Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof  
Em McNair  
Isabelle Werber  
Kevin Byers  
Martha Kimes  
Shelley Parnes

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# LENT

40 days of prayer, fasting and self-examination

Central Presbyterian Church

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. It is a season of preparation during the 40 days and six Sundays before Easter. This year, the pastoral staff invites you to join them as they read and meditate on “Grace Unbound: Devotions for Lent 2022.” We encourage you to read this with your loved ones and families, with a small group, or even on your own. You may pick up a copy in the Narthex.

Additionally, this devotional will be used as our guide as we begin our midweek Lenten Prayer Circle on Wednesday, March 9, at 12 p.m.

For details on this Prayer Circle, check the e-news for the Zoom link.

# 167 Forty Days and Forty Nights

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;  
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,  
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.  
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?  
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!  
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.  
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

This text, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.

## 440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul



1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,  
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less soul on thee.  
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.  
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.



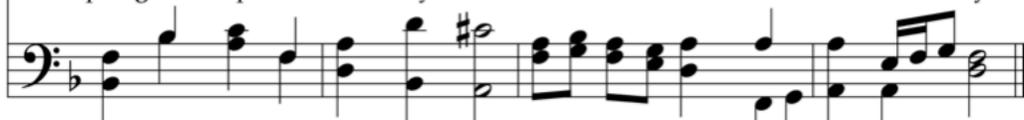
while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high.  
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.  
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.  
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.  
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.  
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!  
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.  
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.  
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.



Originally titled "In Temptation," these four stanzas (of five) call to mind how a spiritual and emotional tempest can move from turmoil to tranquility. This tune was first used with this text in a cantata by the composer in 1910, and since then has become the standard one.

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me  
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

## 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](mailto:jhernandez@cpcatlanta.org)

## Central Care Teams

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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 caring for one another and sharing the love of God at Central.

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## 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.*