



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17, 2023
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Wall Stripes No. 3 by Gene Davis

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Nimrod from Enigma Variations* Edward Elgar
Welcome and Announcements Susan Landrum

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.

✠ Call to Worship Courtney Anne Henry

We come to worship and to share in the good news.

Hope has been given to us.

For every breath we take.

Life dwells in and around us.

For the gift of community here and beyond.

God is with us every step of the way.

Let us together worship the living God.

✠ Hymn 234 *Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain* ST. KEVIN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

God of all the sacred and the profane, we acknowledge that we still have so much to learn. We confess that despite your unending and extravagant grace, we find ourselves amid messy moments, saying unkind words, and not doing justice or showing kindness. Forgive us, God, when we fail to show mercy to our neighbors. Forgive us when we lack patience. Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more. *Silent Confession*

✠ Assurance of Pardon
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 538 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA

**Refrain (sung twice):
Hallelujah! We sing your praises;
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises;
all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Courtney Anne Henry
Prayer for Illumination Rev. Mary Jane Cornell
First Lesson Exodus 14:19-31
Second Lesson Matthew 18:21-35 Susan Landrum

✠ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Please silence your phones.

Sermon

Silence and Stillness

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

✠ Affirmation of Faith
THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

Come and See

Karen Marrolli

Come and see.
Love is here now.
Free your soul.
Let judgement go.

Come and see
Lay your heart down.
Simply be,
that you may see.

Only light can drive away the dark.
Only mercy dampens hatred's spark.
Where compassion reigns, only love remains.

Come and see.
Peace is here now.
Just reach out
and conquer doubt.

Come and see.
Lay your fear down.
See what you find
with opened mind.

Where we tend to turn toward force or fight,
shouting who is wrong and who is right,
nurture opened hearts
from whence healing starts.

Come and see.
We can build a world
where all are known,
where all are home.

Where you don't need to carry guilt or shame,
you don't need to carry hurt or pain,
where the fires of grace burn in every place.

Come and see.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

TRADITIONAL (INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE)

**Beloved parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

✠ Benediction

Susan Landrum

Postlude

Prealudium in F Major, BuxWV145

Dietrich Buxtehude

Participating in Worship Today

Tower Bell Ringer: Ed Carwile
Lector: Mary Jane Cornell
Choir Guild: Anita Carwile

Worship Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner,
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Susan Landrum, Director of Family Ministries
Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Director of Musical Arts
Mason Copeland, Organist/Music Associate
Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow

Thomas Chafin, Interim Choir Director
Elizabeth Daly, Music Intern

Worship Production Staff

Mark Wallace Maguire, Director of
Communications
Dean Hammond, Volunteer
Technology Director
Bo Brewer, Audio Engineer
Elijah Carpenter, Audio Assistant

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Becky Battle
Philip Covin
Liz Burkhardt
Sandy Hoke
Linda Massengill
Chris Sciarrone

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Rev. Shannon J. Kershner's installation service is Wednesday evening

Central friends, as we plan to celebrate Rev. Shannon J. Kershner's installation on this Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m., let's open our building and our hearts to the many visitors we are expecting.

We are looking forward to having Rev. Otis Moss III preaching and also having

special music for this event. Following the installation service, we will host a simple, yet lovely and bountiful reception in Tull Hall.

Please note: We hope to see you in-person, but if you cannot make it, the service will be live-streamed.



Rev. Otis Moss III