



First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Prophecy by Hannah Garrity

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Elizabeth Daly & Thomas Chafin

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Hymn Response 85 (Stanza 1)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.



Call to Worship

Susan Landrum

We are the clay and God is the potter,

We are grateful for the work of God's hand.

We are waiting and we are ready,

We remember God's ways and rejoice.

We keep awake and cultivate hope,

We trust that God is with us.



Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO



Call to Confession



Prayer of Confession

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name...

(Silent Confession) **Amen.**



Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!



Passing of the Peace



When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.

Please silence your phones.

✠ Hymn 88 (Stanza 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children

Courtney Anne Henry and Susan Landrum

Prayer for Illumination

Kristeen Sorrells

First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Kate Culver

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church...

...In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir; Thomas Chafin, conductor; Mason Copeland, organ

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come, O Sov'reign Prince of Heaven; come, O wondrous Love Divine.
Earth and heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace sublime,
O Thou source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face.
At Thy manger grant us mercy, In Thine Advent grant us grace.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

✠ At the Presentation

Doxology

GREENSLEEVES

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

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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...

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

..And so, with your people on earth and all of the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their voices who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus

LAND OF REST

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F[#]) (F[#]m) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
 B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.


...For in our waiting, we claim "Great is the Mystery of Faith!"

Memorial Acclamation

LAND OF REST


Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen 566

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (B) (C) (D) (A)
Gm F B^b Cm Gm D E^b F C



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (B) (C) (D) (Bm7) (E)
Gm F B^b Cm Gm D E^b F Dm7 G



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

The Lord's Prayer

TRADITIONAL (PCUSA)

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

Communion of the People

We will partake communion via intinction. You may proceed to the station closest to you, pick a piece of gluten free bread, dip it into the cup, partake of the elements, and return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, we will serve you while you remain seated.

Prayer After Communion

Bearing and Following the Word into the World



Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL



Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

Improvisation on Veni, veni, Emmanuel

arr. Mason Copeland

Participating in Worship Today

Tower Bell Ringer: Chantal Tusher
Choir Guild: Marcia Hunter

Worship Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner,
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
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
Josh Smith,
Audio Engineer
Patrick Maguire,
Video Assistant

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Kevin Byers
Martha Kimes
Isabelle Werber

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CENTRAL upcoming events

Sunday, December 3

ADVENT MARKETPLACE & CELEBRATION

Tull Hall following worship

Saturday, December 9

CHRISTMAS TEA

The Deacons are excited to share the return of the Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Shannon & Greg Kershner. An invitation with details will be sent out soon to our “Silver Belles & Merry Makers” — members of Central ages 70 and older.

CENTRAL

upcoming events

Wednesday, December 13

CENTRAL'S NIGHT AT THE NIGHT SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to provide sack lunches, service dinner and volunteer overnight. Please contact Chris Sciarrone at sciarrone.chris@gmail.com with any questions

Friday, December 15

CENTRAL OAC GUEST HOLIDAY PARTY

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sunday, December 17

AMIS HOLIDAY PARTY

Tull Hall following worship

Sunday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE!

Sunday Breakfast Ministry in Tull Hall

Our Children's Pageant will take place as part of our morning worship at 11 a.m.

Our Christmas Eve Service will take place that evening at 5 p.m.



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