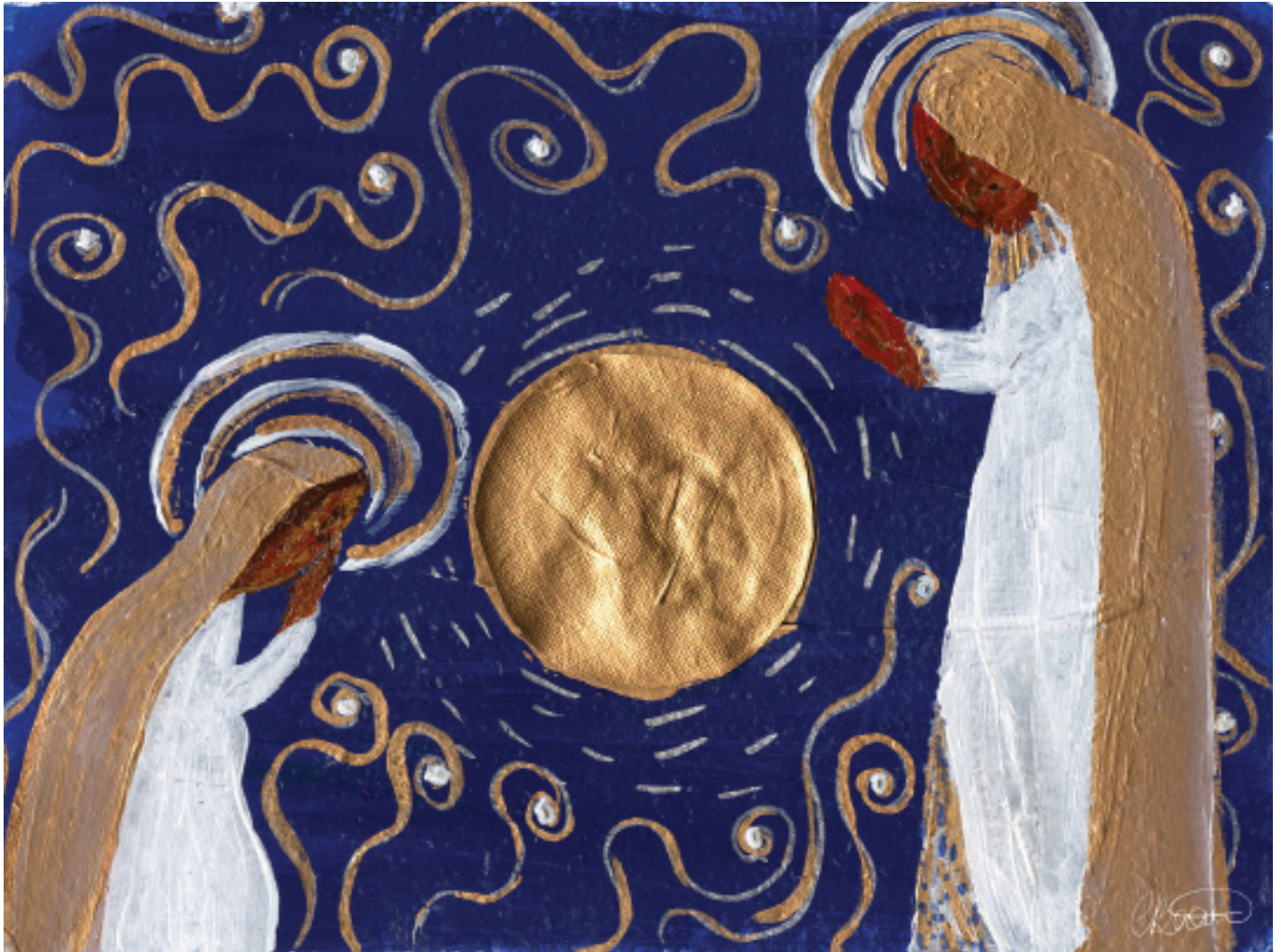




Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Mary's Golden Annunciation by Carmelle Beaugelin

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Sara Toering, Dane, Leland & Quin Jefferson

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding
sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and
looking for good news.

**By telling the story of Jesus, and
showing up for our community.**

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

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

Hymn Response 85 (Stanza 3)

Light Three Candles to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

5

Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.

✠ Call to Worship

Susan Landrum

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

**God can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

✠ Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this 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

✠ Hymn 88 (Stanza 6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
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

Dr. Khaliah Johnson

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Kate Culver

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

Magnificat

Herbert Brewer

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

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior,
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
world without end, Amen.

✠ 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.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

TRADITIONAL PC(USA)

**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.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

✠ Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Dr. Khaliah Johnson
Tower Bell Ringer: Jason Bliss
Choir Guild: Kathy McCloud
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team

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

Central Presbyterian Church 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
Kristie Johns, Business Administrator
Mark Wallace Maguire, Director of Communications
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Diedre, Custodian
Christin Bland, Communications Associate
Linda Massengill, Part Time Assistant
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir
Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow
Thomas Chafin, Interim Choir Director
Elizabeth Daly, Music Intern
Patrick Maguire, Video Assistant
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer

Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at www.cpcatlanta.org or using the QR code below.



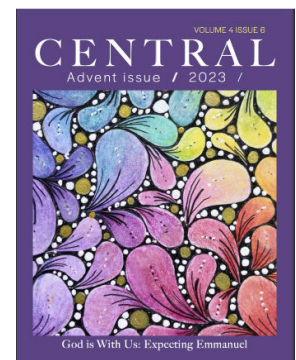
We're Social!

Follow us on Facebook, Youtube or Instagram to stay up-to-date on church life.



Central's Advent Issue is Available

If you have not yet picked up a copy of Central's Advent Issue, please be sure to take one home with you today! This edition features articles by our staff, members, a calendar for upcoming events and much more. You can pick up a copy in the foyer or read it on our website at cpcatlanta.org





CHRISTMAS EVE

AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 24

8:30 to 9:30 - Sunday Breakfast Ministry in Tull Hall

11 a.m. - Morning Worship with Children's Pageant

5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

Contribute to the Sanctuary Flower Fund

Each week during the Advent and Christmas season, we will enjoy beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary. You can choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, and your name will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin so the Central family can thank you.

You may contribute via this link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/220595363768063>

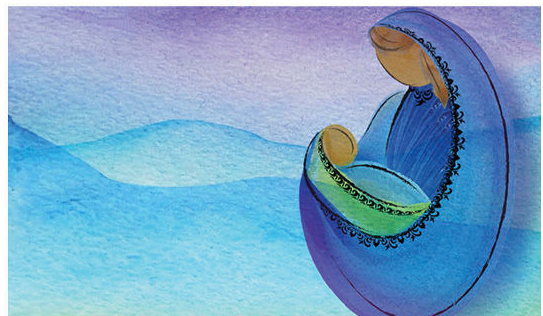
Gifts to the Joy Offering will be received on Sundays, December 17 and 24.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Your congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. You can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief.

In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering is committed to helping promote educational opportunities and leadership development in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your congregation can enable these institutions to provide students with a transformative education.

Give the gift of education and the gift of relief of financial burden this giving season by supporting the Christmas Joy Offering.

 **CHRISTMAS JOY**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE





ADVENT
Celebration &
ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Don't forget there is still time to give to the Advent Gift Market!

Order forms, gift cards, and QR codes are available in the Narthex.



201 Washington St. Atlanta, Ga. 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org

