



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14, 2024
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



From a Birmingham Jail: MLK by L'Merchie Frazier

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Adagio, Sonata No. 1

Mendelssohn

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.

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

WRITTEN BY THOM SHUMAN

The Word of the Lord came,

hope for all people cradled in his arms.

the Word of the Lord comes,

calling us out of our comfort zones,

to go where grace is needed most.

The Word of the Lord will come,

gathering all the outsiders and insiders

into one community of the kingdom.

✠ Hymn 352 *My Lord! What a Morning* MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have touched us with your grace and awakened us by your Spirit. We are deeply grateful but confess that sometimes, we don't act very grace-filled or spiritually awake. So where our familiarity with the Gospel has desensitized us to its demanding truth; where our relationship with Jesus Christ has become more nostalgic than dynamic; where our passion to be your body has grown lukewarm; send your grace and mercy. Forgive us, restore us, and strengthen us, that we may rise up again in peace to love and serve your world...

(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 313 (Stanza 1) *Lord, Make Us More Holy* LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

**Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Tina Sizemore

✠ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.
Please silence your phones.

First Lesson

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Living Epistle from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Second Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Sermon

Responding to the Word



Hymn 740

Lead Me, Guide Me, Along the Way

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME



Affirmation of Faith

Kimberly Parker

BASED ON ROMANS 8

If God is for us, who is against us?... Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

Psalm 139

Heather Sorenson

Chancel Choir; Thomas Chafin, conductor; Justin Bowen, piano

O Lord, you search my heart.

O Lord, you know my ev'ry thought, ev'ry word, ev'ry sigh.

You understand my rising.

You understand my soul when I need rest,

And you place your hand on me.

Jesus, place your hand on me.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Where can I go from your presence?

If I rise up to the heavens,

If I make my bed in hell,

If I ride the wings of morning,

If I sink into the sea.

Even there your hand shall lead me.

Even there your arms shall hold me.

This knowledge overwhelms me.

It is too high; I cannot comprehend it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Where can I go from your presence,

O most high? You are there.

Though darkness falls all around me,

Even the night, it shall be as light to you.

And you place your hand,

Lord, you place your hand,

Jesus, place your hand on me.

O Lord, you know my ev'ry thought, ev'ry word, ev'ry sigh.

**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

Kimberly Parker

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 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

✠ Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

Fantasia in C, BWV 570

J.S. Bach

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Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lectors Tina Sizemore, Kimberly Parker
Choir Guild: Ann Hunter
Tower Bell Ringer: Ed Carwile
Guest Organist: Justin Bowen
Chancel Choir
Dean Hammond,
Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Martha Haythorn
Kathy Kohn
Norm Kohn

Give

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



Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
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