



# EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31, 2024



*Mourning Light*, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
Geneva Hanbell Choir

arr. Karen Roth

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 Susan Landrum

This is the good news: the grave is empty, Christ is risen!

**Alleluia!**

This is the good news: the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

**Alleluia!**

This is the good news: once we were no people,  
now we are God's people!

**Alleluia!**

Let us worship our Easter God

✠ Hymn 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

**Good Shepherd God, we confess that we are in danger of becoming a tearless people. We confess to sometimes imitating a smiling society, glossing over the hurt, the oppression, and the chaos of this earth. At other times, we confess we become caustic, cynical, or despairing. We are in danger of becoming a blind-hearted people, buying into the system and growing satisfied with the way things are. Have we not seen? Have we not heard? And yet you, O God, have created us for covenant keeping. You have created us for resurrection spotting. You have created us to live your Easter good news with everything we've got. So help us, we pray. By your Easter Spirit empower us to live as a people shaped by your voice, your hope, and your reign...(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 248 (Stanza 1) *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* HYMN TO JOY

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:  
all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.**

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

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

# Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children

Courtney Anne Henry

Prayer for Illumination

David Enniss

First Lesson

Psalm 118:1-12, 14-24

Second Lesson

Mark 16:1-8

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 254

*That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Kate Culver

SELECTIONS FROM SCRIPTURE (BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

*Christ Our Passover*

Will C. Macfarlane

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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast.  
Not with old leav'n, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness,  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more:  
death hath no more dominion over Him.

For in that He died, He died unto sin once:  
but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin:  
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ is risen, is risen from the dead:  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man, for since by man came death:  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam, for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

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. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!**

## The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

Easter God, we bring you our praise and our thanks.

You take the pain of our Good Fridays,

the watching of suffering and the waiting for death,

and transform our helplessness into the fragile beginnings of hope.

**You take the bleakness of our Easter Saturdays,**

**the weariness of defeat and desolation,**

**and transform our despair into the courage to go on.**

You take the grieving of early Easter Sunday morning,

the fearful approach to the tomb,

and transform our bewilderment into the breathless excitement of new life!

**And so, with Mary and the disciples,**

**with all who have wept and been comforted,**

**with all who have mourned and found hope,**

**we sing your Easter praises:**

Sanctus 556

Holy, Holy, Holy 556

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

So, God of loss and love, we give you thanks for these gifts  
of broken bread and poured-out wine.

**May they speak to us of the everyday made holy,  
of oppression turned to freedom and justice,  
of new life dancing in our lives.**

May they speak to us of the one we know as Your Love Made Flesh,  
Jesus our Christ, Jesus our brother, Jesus our Savior! Great is the mystery of faith!

Memorial Acclamation 557

## 557 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Musical score for the hymn "Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen". The score is written in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again." The chords indicated above the notes are: G, G7, Am, G, G, A9, G, D7, G, G7, Am, E, Am, Ddim, Am, A9, C, C/G, G.

Come now, O Holy Spirit, brood over these bodily things, this bread and this cup.

**May they be for us your body and blood, vibrant with life,  
healing, renewing and making us whole.**

And burst forth in us with your Easter power, that we might not cling to what is past,  
but answer joyfully to the calling of our names  
to live your risen life in the world you have made new.  
And hear us as we continue to pray together, saying...

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Music During Communion

*Holy, Holy, Holy/Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Thomas Chafin, piano

arr. Suzanne Brantley

Prayer After Communion

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn	<i>Hallelujah Chorus</i>	G. F. Handel
Charge and Benediction		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Postlude	<i>Finale from Symphony No. 1</i>	Louis Vierne

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### Participating in Worship Today

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#### Special participants in today's service

Lector: David Enniss  
Choir Guild: Kathy Kohn  
Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett  
Chancel Choir  
Dean Hammond,  
Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Ben Evans  
Bettie Hardin  
Kathy Harben  
Rachel Hull  
Mike Sizemore

#### Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.



#### 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  
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  
Alex Johns, Communications Associate  
Karen Brown,  
Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir  
Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow  
Thomas Chafin, Interim Choir Director  
Elizabeth Daly, Music Intern  
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer  
Patrick Maguire, Video Assistant

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Church Offices will be closed tomorrow for Easter Monday.



201 Washington St. Atlanta, Ga. 30303  
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# Seeking Nominations for Ruling Elders and Deacons

On February 4, our congregation elected Kevin Byers, Eleanor Dake, David Enniss, and Bessie Green to the 2024 Nominating Committee. They join Philip Covin, Chair (representing Session), LaShawn Green, Vice Chair (also representing Session), and Rob Forbes (representing Diaconate). The Nominating Committee asks your help in identifying qualified leaders to serve on the Session and the Diaconate.

Electing Deacons and Ruling Elders is a privilege and a responsibility for members of Central Presbyterian Church. This is an exciting time to participate in the leadership of our church. Please reflect and pray about those whom you think God is calling to the next class of Ruling Elders and Deacons. And yes, you may also nominate yourself!

**Please submit your nominations, including self-nominations, no later than Friday, April 12.** The 2024 slate of officers will be voted on at a congregational meeting on **Sunday, May 5.**

**Note: The following CPC members are not eligible for nomination because they will continue serving on Session or the Diaconate:**

**Elder Class of 2025:** Robert Catterall, Philip Covin, Ann Hunter, Hannah Palmer, Anne Sciarrone

**Elder Class of 2026:** Gary Cornell, Denise deLaRue, LaShawn Greene, John Heidbreder, Adam Seeley

**Deacon Class of 2025:** Betty Carroll, Vanessa Kirk, Debbie Miller, Ellen Thompson, Isabelle Werber

**Deacon Class of 2026:** Martha Kimes, Rachel Hull, Ed Galloway, Liz Jaffe, Terrylynn Pons, Anne Blankinship

**With gratitude, we thank the following CPC members for their service on Session and the Diaconate:**

**Elder Class of 2024:** Janet Abercrombie, Lewis Amos, Julie Boggs, Kelly Bray, Sarah Cook, Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert, Tom Holcomb, Ximena Leroux

**Deacon Class of 2024:** Ed Carwile, Eleanor Dake, Rob Forbes, Emmalee Hackshaw, Zac Hilimire, Ben Sutton

**Questions about serving? Contact Philip Covin at [covin8@yahoo.com](mailto:covin8@yahoo.com)**

**You may visit Realm for more information.**

You may also scan this QR code to access the nominating form or fill out the form in the pews.



We are excited about our annual fundraiser on April 21! Our goal is to raise \$120,000.

You can participate by:

- Registering (\$25) and walking 9 miles on your own over the next few weeks

- Starting or joining a "team" - your dollars raised will tally together

It's also okay if you can't walk! We appreciate your generous support. Learn more on the OAC website under "Get Involved" - In Their Shoes is at the top. Visit the website [www.centraloac.org](http://www.centraloac.org) for more information.

## New Sunday School class begins in mid-April

Rev. Kate Culver will be teaching a two-part series on American Transcendentalism in the Issues in Theology class on April 17 and 14, based on Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous essay, "Nature." The class convenes at 9:45 a.m. in the Greene Room, just off of Tull Hall, across from the Taylor Conference Room. Copies of the essay will circulate in advance to class members, and new members can get a copy from Rod Hunter, [rhunt02@emory.edu](mailto:rhunt02@emory.edu). All are welcome—those who have read the essay and those who have not!



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