



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Fugue on BACH* Robert Schumann  
Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner  
Ringing 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 Elizabeth Amos  
Blessed are those who are discerning what they believe;  
**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
Blessed are the communities, sponsors, and friends  
who support and love us;  
**For their wisdom and partnership are filled with grace.**  
And blessed are you for who you are now;  
**For we are created in the image of God.**  
Let us worship together.

✠ Hymn 157 *I Danced in the Morning* LORD OF THE DANCE

✠ Call to Confession Izzy Wood

✠ 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)... Amen.**

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

✠ Passing of the Peace Oscar Ashe & Charlie Wood

✠ Hymn Response 582 *Glory to God* GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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

## Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Vega Barr & Courtney Anne Henry  
Prayer for Illumination Susannah Tusher  
First Lesson Psalm 22:25-31 Caroline Tusher

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

Sermon

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 285 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* BRIDEGROOM

The Celebration of Confirmation and Receiving New Members

Presentation of the Confirmation Class Courtney Anne Henry & Susan Landrum

Statement on Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Faith Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Profession of Faith

APOSTLE'S 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, died, and was buried; he descended to Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into to Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall 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.**

Welcome Rev. Kate Culver

Offertory Sentence Oscar Ashe & Charlie Wood

Music at the Offertory *Speak O Lord*  
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend/arr. Mark Edwards  
Children & Youth Choir; Thomas Chafin & Elizabeth Daly, Conductors; Karen Brown, Piano  
with Chancel Choir

✠ At the Presentation *Doxology* LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
**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!**

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer Ellie Harbert, Kaitlyn Hilimire, & Hannah Hilimire  
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 641

*When in Our Music God is Glorified*

ENGELBERG

✠ Charge & Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

*Improvisation on Engelberg*

Mason Copeland

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## Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Caroline Tusher  
Choir Guild: Kathy McCloud  
Tower Bell Ringer: Chantal Tusher  
Chancel Choir  
Dean Hammond,  
Volunteer Technology Director  
Elizabeth Amos  
Izzy Wood  
Charlie Wood  
Oscar Ashe  
Vega Barr  
Susannah Tusher  
Ellie Harbert  
Kaitlyn Hilimire  
Hannah Hilimire

### Hospitality Team

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

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## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner,  
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
Susan Landrum, Director of Family Ministries  
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship 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  
Alex Johns, Communications Associate  
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem &  
Jerusalem Choir  
Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow  
Thomas Chafin, Music Intern  
Elizabeth Daly, Music Intern  
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer  
Patrick Maguire, Video Assistant

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## 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 Confirmation Overview 2023-2024

Dear Central,

It is with great joy that I share this overview of the journey we have been on as a confirmation class. Confirmation Sunday marks concludes the walk we started together in December of 2023 with this incredible group of people! We are so grateful to celebrate their gifts of time, energy and thoughtfulness today!



## Members of the Confirmation Class and their Sponsors:

Elizabeth Amos, sponsor: Larken McCord  
Oscar Ashe, sponsor: Greg Kershner  
Vega Barr, sponsor: Janet Abercrombie  
Ellie Harbert, sponsor: Jill Lum  
Hannah Hilimire, sponsor: Grace Paulsen

Kaitlyn Hilimire, sponsor: Melanie Bliss  
Caroline Tusher, sponsor: Lucy Baum  
Charlie Wood, sponsor: Chris Sciarrone  
Isabelle Wood (Izzy), sponsor: Vanessa Hunter

## Key Supporters:

Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow  
Susannah Tusher, youth participant, Sunday School  
School Ted Brothers, Sunday School teacher

Gayle Knight, Sunday School teacher  
Anne Sciaronne, Sunday School teacher  
Rev. Shannon Kershner  
Rev. Kate Culver

**\*\*Every parent and family member of these incredible people!**



We began our journey together in December with our opening retreat at Central. Sponsors joined for part of our time together and we focused on what our big faith questions are. Some examples of this include: *How do people (adults) know that God is real? How do you see God at work in your life? Will Jesus ever come to earth again? How do we know what's in the Bible is true? What exactly is church? Is heaven real? What about hell?*

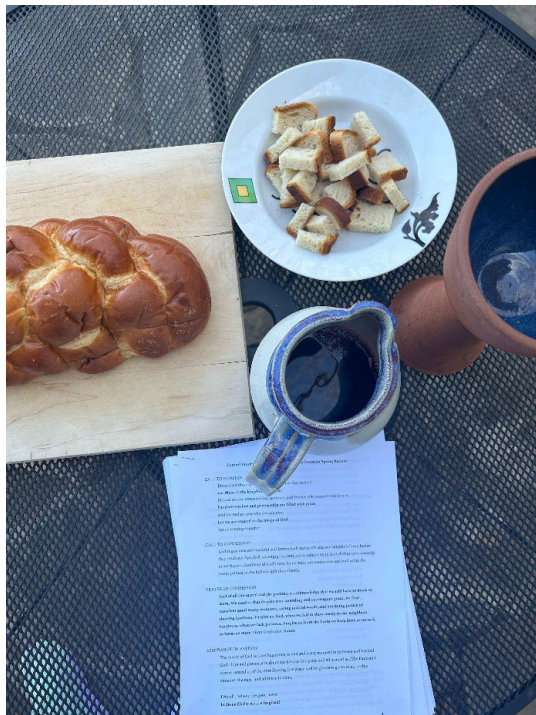
## Central Confirmation Overview 2023-2024

Our opening retreat also included making sandwiches for the OAC guests and serving breakfast in Tull Hall as a way to celebrate that church is a place to be God's hands and feet in the world.

From there, we focused on Sunday School as a time to come together and grapple with some of these big questions, pulling from the [Theocademy curriculum](#) to guide our conversations.

Other highlights from this season:

- ★ A meal with Pastor Shannon and Pastor Kate, hosted by the Ashe family, where we got to grill them with some of these tough questions.
- ★ A worship and service opportunity at Holy Comforter Church, a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese that practices radical hospitality, especially to people with acute mental well-being needs.
- ★ Attending Shabbat services at The Temple on April 12th and receiving a tour of the synagogue from Rabbi Peter Berg.



Our spring retreat in March was spent at both Columbia Theological Seminary and at the Bliss family lake house. We were able to focus on fun and fellowship in both places and reunite with our sponsors to kick off the process of writing faith statements. We talked a great deal about how the process of confirmation is just as much about the journey as it is about the destination. And as youth leaders, Courtney Anne and I enjoyed watching this group shop and cook for one another and for us, celebrate Hannah's birthday and lead worship outdoors before returning to Atlanta.

Since then, the confirmands discerned their next steps by writing faith statements with their sponsors and continuing to ask their big questions. We also found joy together in planning this service! Dr. Martha Moore-Keish was a special guest in Sunday School to help us think about why and how we worship.

Every one of these young people have poured energy, imagination, time, reason, and creativity into this experience. We are grateful to be walking alongside them for this chapter of their faith journey and beyond.

## Central Confirmation Overview 2023-2024



I'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to Courtney Anne Henry, Children & Youth Fellow, for her collaboration on our confirmation journey. She compiled lessons, supplementary materials, planned retreats alongside me, supported me in thinking through the arc of this process, organized logistics around field trips and so much more. Her time at Central this year has been a blessing and we have all benefited from her powerful combination of creative energy and commitment.

Lastly, thank you to the Rebekah Circle for supporting the purchase of Bibles for the confirmands. These beautiful gifts are a testament to the intergenerational support that is integral to children and youth ministry. Love is Central and Central really knows how to love.

In Christ,

Susan Landrum  
Director of Family Ministries  
April 2024



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