



Sixth Sunday of Easter  
MAY 5, 2024



Alma Thomas, *Untitled (Music Series)*

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*Jesus, Lead Thou On*

Paul Manz

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 worshiping God.*

✠ Call to Worship

Courtney Anne Henry

We come to join with all the earth in praise:

**to sing a new song to the Lord,  
who has done marvelous things,  
who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

We praise the Lord with joyful noises  
joining the symphony of the earth:

**the roar of the ocean,  
the call of the birds,  
the wind across the hills,  
people in every corner of the globe.**

On this sabbath day of rest and gladness,  
**we greet you with joy, our living God!**

✠ Hymn 371

*New Songs of Celebration Render*

RENDEZ À DIEU

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

**God of boundless mercy, when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to the oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, encourage us, and fill us with your joy...*(Silent Confession)***  
**Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ 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.*

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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

Susan Landrum

Prayer for Illumination

Kristeen Sorrells

First Lesson

Psalm 47

Second Lesson

Acts 1:1-11, 23-26

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 761

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Kate Culver

FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.15

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. We ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

Offertory Sentence

Anthem

*O God Beyond All Praising*

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir; Mason Copeland, piano

O God beyond all praising, we worship You today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift You send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your word, we honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.

For Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free, and we through Him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in Your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

✠ 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



# The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus 552

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

LAND OF REST

## Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)

F C F B<sup>b</sup> C F

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

(A) (D/F<sup>#</sup>) (F<sup>#</sup>m) (G) (A) (Bm)

C F/A Am B<sup>b</sup> 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<sup>b</sup> 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.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984  
Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund  
Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

Memorial Acclamation 553

*Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

LAND OF REST

SERVICE MUSIC

## 553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D) (A) (D/F<sup>#</sup>)(F<sup>#</sup>m)

F C F B<sup>b</sup> C F C F/A Am

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

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus) (D)

B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

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

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984  
Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

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

*We will partake communion via intinction. You may proceed to the station closest to you, pick a piece of 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.*

Music During Communion

*The Lord bless you and keep you*  
Elizabeth Daly, soprano; Mason Copeland, piano

John Rutter

Prayer After Communion

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World



Hymn 371

*In Christ there is No East or West*

MC KEE



Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

*Sonata II, Mvt. I*

Paul Hindemith

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## Participating in Worship Today

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### Special participants in today's service

Lector: Kristeen Sorrells  
Choir Guild: Kathy Kohn  
Tower Bell Ringer: Allean Brown  
Chancel Choir  
Dean Hammond,  
Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Kevin Byers  
Tricia Downing  
Martha Kimes  
Em McNair  
Annastassia Pons  
Isabelle Werber

#### Give

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



### 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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## Congregational Meeting & Lunch Today

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, May 5, at the close of worship for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2027. Following the meeting, we will have a congregational lunch to celebrate the election of new officers!

### Tower Bell Ringers

Thanks to all our “regular” ringers for taking care of the tower bell each Sunday. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday in May or beyond, check out our weekly e-news for the link.

If you still aren't sure about it, go to the bell tower on Sunday morning and observe our expert ringers in action!

### Central Women Meetings

All the women of Central are invited to join the group for any or all of our upcoming programs. We'll have dinner at 7 p.m. followed by our varied and compelling programs. Questions? Contact Linda McCord at [lindasavagemccord@gmail.com](mailto:lindasavagemccord@gmail.com)

## Thirsty Thursdays

7 p.m.  
May 23  
Manuel's Tavern

Central members meet monthly at Manuel's Tavern for a time of informal fellowship. While this event was initially for Young Professionals, the event is open to all ages. Guests are welcome and no RSVP is required! Manuel's is located at 602 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307

Questions? Contact M.E. Davis at [maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com](mailto:maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com)

## Issues in Theology

Sundays  
9:45 a.m.  
Green Room

Issues in Theology will start reading, "Church in an Age of Secular Mysticism (Ministry in a Secular Age)" this Sunday. The class will break for the summer series (details TBA) and will resume the book in September. Class members take turns summarizing the readings so you do not need to read the selection to attend.

Contact Tina Sizemore at [tinasizemore@bellsouth.net](mailto:tinasizemore@bellsouth.net) if you have questions.

## Grappling with Jesus's Teachings | A Sojourner's Class

Sundays  
9:45 a.m.  
Brotherhood Room

The stories of Jesus' teachings that we find in the Gospels can present challenges in understanding and interpretation. In this class, we will grapple with these challenging stories with help from the thought-provoking essays of Debie Thomas in her recently-published book, *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. The "Wonders" section of this book, on the miracles of Jesus, provided the source for lively class discussions this past fall. In February and March, we will discuss stories from the "Teachings" section of the book: the beatitudes, the ten bridesmaids, the good Samaritan, and more. Join us for enriching dialogues that promise to offer fresh perspectives on Jesus' teachings.

The Sojourners class meets from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Brotherhood room. Information about this class is available from Ed Carwile ([carwile1230@earthlink.net](mailto:carwile1230@earthlink.net)) and Robert Catterall ([rfcatterall@gmail.com](mailto:rfcatterall@gmail.com)).

## We Want to Hear from You!

We want to hear from you! Do you have photos from a Central event or gathering to share? Please send them to us so we can share to the congregation and community. Our deadline for each week's e-newsletter is Monday at noon. Contact [ajohns@cpatlanta.org](mailto:ajohns@cpatlanta.org)



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