



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 22, 2024
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Children at Ice Cream Stand, William H. Johnson

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Improvisation
Mason Copeland, organ

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 Rev. Kate Culver
Children of God: Welcome!
Welcome to this place of love and grace,
Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.
God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,
God invites all of us to share in the good news:
We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.
In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

✠ Hymn 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!* ASSURANCE

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:
Hear our prayer.
There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.
We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
For fear of admitting our part in the separation,
For fear of being rejected when we reach out.
You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,
To a wholeness with each other and with You.
Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations
Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray... (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 447 *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven.
We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven.
We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children

Susan Landrum and Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination

Kevin Hackshaw

First Lesson

Psalm 54

Second Lesson

Mark 9:30-37

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Susan Landrum

ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to all people commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

Draw Us Near
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

Joel Thompson

✠ 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

Susan Landrum

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 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

✦ Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

✦ Choral Benediction

The Peace of the Earth Be With You
Chancel Choir

John L. Bell

**The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.**

Postlude

Improvisation
Mason Copeland, organ

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Kevin Hackshaw
Choir Guild Member: Kathy Kohn
Tower Bell Ringer: Marci Bozeman
Deacon of the Day: Debbie Miller
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team

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

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner,
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
Susan Landrum, Director of Children & Youth
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
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir
Naomi McQuiller, Children & Youth Intern
Thomas Chafin, Music Intern
Kelly Grba, Music Intern
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
Renton Hinderer, Video Assistant
Dorran Nickerson, Video Assistant
Hala Hess White, Communications Associate

Give

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