

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Charlie Richards
Choir Guild: Kathy Kohn
Tower Bell Ringer: Kristeen Sorrell
Deacon of the Day: Larken McCord
Dean Hammond, Volunteer
Technology Director

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Becky Battle
Philip Covin
Liz Burkhardt
Sandy Hoke
Linda Massengill
Chris Sciarrone
Ellen Thompson

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
Dorran Nickerson, Video Assistant
Hala Hess White, Communications Associate

THE NURSERY IS OPEN: Come Little Children! Central has resumed its nursery for children ages 3 months to four-years-old during our Sunday School and worship hours (9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday). Children are always welcome in our sanctuary, but for those parents or caregivers who prefer their little ones to be in a bright, safe, playful environment, please join us in the nursery!

Deacons Available in Rand Chapel for Prayer After Worship

We understand that these times may bring many difficult emotions. As a community, we want to support each other in this journey. Every Sunday, there will be deacons available in Rand Chapel after worship if you would like to talk or pray with someone. If you feel scared, sad, depressed, uncertain, or are struggling in any way, please come. Let us be there to lift each other up, to offer consolation, and to remind each other of the strength we hold in our shared faith.

The Bashor Night Shelter needs meals. This ecumenical ministry of hospitality to our homeless brothers has operated since 1980, providing nightly meals and a safe warm place to sleep. The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve on the following date:

Dinner for 70 men on Thursday, January 30

If your group is interested or if you have questions about the details, please contact Chris Sciarrone at sciarrone.chris@gmail.com or 404-966-0380.

This Week at Central

December 15 - December 22, 2024

Sunday, December 15

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
Sojourners Class (Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
12:00 p.m. Christmas with AMIS (Tull Hall)

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, December 17

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic (Gym)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Friday, December 20

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

Saturday, December 21

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 22

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
Sojourners Class (Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship and Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Today is the Deadline for Flowers for Advent & Christmas. Each week during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Central enjoys beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary as a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the seasons. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, a gift to the Flower Fund is a great way to do it. You may choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone by the deadline today, and your name will be listed in the December 22 bulletin. A portion of your gift will also be used throughout the coming year, continuing to bring joy and beauty to our worship services. You can scan this QR code to make a flower donation:



Pledge Sunday was November 3, yet there is still time to make your commitment for 2025! You may sign up via Realm or fill out a pledge card that you can find in the pews or in the narthex. Questions? Contact Kristie Johns at kjohns@cpcatlanta.org

Give

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



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Magnify, Hannah Garrity

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Susan Staples Bell
Thomas Chafin, piano

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 worshiping God.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Barringer-Fields Family
In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

Let us start small.

Let us begin with what is right in front of us.

Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Yes, let us begin with joy.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights inspire action.

May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

May it be so! Amen.

Hymn 88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(verse 6)

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✠ Call to Worship Susan Landrum
God, you are our salvation and trust.
Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.
You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.
Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.
You have become for us our strength and salvation.
Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.
Let us sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things.
Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise on this day.
Hallelujah!

✠ Hymn 105 *People, Look East* BESACON

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, you promised to do great things for us,
yet we do not trust you.**
**You extend your mercy to us,
yet we do not trust you.**
**You lift up the humble,
you fill the hungry with good things,
and yet we still do not trust you.**
Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us.
In the name of Jesus Christ 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 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING (Cason)
(sing 2 times)

**While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Susan Landrum
Commissioning of Nursery Workers

Prayer for Illumination Charlie Richards

First Lesson Psalm 80:1-7

Second Lesson Luke 1:39-55 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* JEFFERSON

✠ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver
APOSTLES' CREED, TRADITIONAL
**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 Pon-
tius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into
hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I be-
lieve 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.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Canticle of the Turning* arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

✠ At the Presentation *Advent Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**

✠ Prayer of Dedication Rev. Kate Culver

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

TRADITIONAL

**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 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy* THE TREES OF THE FIELD
(sing through twice)

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

✠ Choral Benediction *Sing Out, My Soul* MAGNIFICAT (Taizé)


Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and
Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi -


glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul.
cat a - ni - ma me - a Do-mi-num. Ma - gni - fi - cat.


Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!
Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

Postlude *Prelude in E Major* J.S. Bach
Mason Copeland, piano