



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Central Christmas Pageant  
December 22, 2024  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



*Abolition Baby*, Nicolette Peñaranda

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*Carol of the Bells*  
Sam Sutton, piano

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.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Susannah & Caroline Tusher

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**Let us begin with tenderness.**  
**Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.**  
**Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.**  
**Let us begin with love.**

Yes, let us start with love.

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

**May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.**

**May the truth in these lights help us begin again.**

**May it be so! Amen.**

Hymn 88 (verse 7)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

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

✠ Call to Worship

Susan Landrum

In this weary world,  
**we sing of joy.**  
In this fragile world,  
**we lift each other up.**  
In this beautiful world,  
**we look for God.**  
In this tender world,  
**we hold onto hope.**

This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**With hope in our hearts, Amen!**

✠ Hymn 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
Mason Copeland, piano

GO TELL IT

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Litany of Confession

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be,

**but we declare those visions impossible.**

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

**but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.**

You dream of a more just day,

**but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.**

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

**Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.**

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either.**

**With gratitude we pray, ... (Silent Confession) Amen.**

---

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

✠ 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*  
(sing twice)

WAITING (Cason)

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

## Proclaiming the Word

✠ Hymn 140

*Once In Royal David's City*  
Bruno Palmer, soloist, Mason Copeland, piano

IRBY

(After the solo, please rise and join in singing verses 2-4)

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild;  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

**He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

## The Light of the World: A Children's Pageant An Adaptation of Luke 1 and Matthew 2

*All Through The Night*  
Julia Ashe, soloist, Mason Copeland, piano

AR HYD Y NOS

Sleep, my child, and peace attend thee, all through the night.  
Guardian angels God will send thee, all through the night.  
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping, our dear child in slumber sleeping,  
I, my loving vigil keeping, all through the night.

*The Friendly Beasts*

TRADITIONAL

Jerusalem and Bethlehem Choirs; Thomas Chafin, conductor; Mason Copeland, piano  
Soloists: James Wood (donkey); Kai Hilimire (cow); Aubrey Johnson (dove); Bruno Palmer (camel)

Jesus our brother kind and good was humbly born in a stable of wood,  
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

“I”, said the donkey shaggy and brown, I carried his mother uphill and down.  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town, “I” said the donkey shaggy and brown.

“I”, said the cow all white and red, I gave him my manger for his bed;  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head, “I”, said the cow all white and red.

“I”, said the sheep with the curly horn, I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn. “I”, said the sheep with curly horn.

“I”, said the dove from the rafters high, I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry;  
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I. “I”, said the dove from the rafters high.

“I” said the camel all yellow and black, Over the desert upon my back  
I brought him a gift in the wise men’s pack, “I” said the camel all yellow and black.

All of the beasts, remembering it well, in the stable dark were proud to tell ...  
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

✠ Hymn 134 (verse 1)

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

✠ 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 Pontius 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 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.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

*Ding, Dong, Merrily On High*  
Traditional English Carol  
Geneva Handbell Choir, Thomas Chafin, conductor

arr. Fred Gramann

✠ 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

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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 134 (versus 2-4)

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

✠ Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

*Gaudete*

arr. Carl Wiltse

Geneva Handbell Choir, Thomas Chafin, conductor



We are so grateful to the leadership of Vanessa Hunter and Dane Jefferson who co-directed this year's pageant! Hannah Kershner and Sara Toering served as stage assistants this year as well and helped to make the pageant flow. We are also so grateful to the members of the Central staff who make this possible, with special mention of the music team and AV team. And of course, none of this is possible without the love and support of each family member who participates with their time, talent, and energy!

## Pageant Cast

(in order of appearance)

Opening Prayer - Kai Hilimire  
Royal David's City Soloist- Bruno Palmer  
Storyteller #1 – Gabby Szymanski  
Storyteller #2 – Guy Palmer  
Storyteller #3 – Beth Szymanski  
Storyteller #4 – Amelia Harbert  
The Emperor's Herald – Finley Sutton  
Joseph – Liam Fields  
Mary - Julia Ashe  
The Innkeeper's Child – Phoebe Hunter  
Host of Angels – Quinlyn Jefferson, Freya Holden, Penelope Lines, Phoebe Hunter  
The Angel Child – Roscoe Ashe  
The Angel of the Lord – Brianna Stewart  
The Excited Shepherd – Leland Jefferson  
Herod – James Wood  
Herod's Advisor – Sam Sutton  
The Three Wisepeople – Elliott Hackshaw, Carmen Holden, Cameron Dake  
The Kings' Attendant – Marshall Dake  
The Star – Aubrey Johnson

## Sanctuary Flower Memorials

Each December, members of our congregation contribute to the Sanctuary Flower Fund in honor or memory of special people in their lives. During Advent and on Christmas Eve, the arrangements in the sanctuary add a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the season. These gifts will also be used throughout the year to bring joy and beauty to our worship services.

### **We recognize those who contributed this year:**

Jennifer Ayres in memory of Carol Ayres

Bob & Tricia Berrett in memory of Don & Peg Berrett; Richard Berrett;  
and James & Helen Burrus

The Boggs Family In loving memory of Do & Ralph Black; Lou & Wade Boggs; David Gilbert;  
Mike Morgan; Richard Ezell; Kemie Nix; John Lokos; and in honor of the Central Family

Marci Bozeman & Vaughan Branch in memory of Mary Maude Branch and Stuart Bozeman

Betty & Lee Carroll in memory of P.C. "Buddy" Enniss

Dan & Vicki Collier in memory of Nick Collier

Martha Crenshaw in memory of Ike Lee

Bill & Marcia Crosland in memory of Bill & Charlotte Crosland; and Peggy & Neal Smith

The Enniss Family in memory of P. C. Enniss

Ben Evans in memory of Allan Brockman

Camille Gaffron in memory of Buddy Enniss

Beth Grashof in honor of the Hospitality Team members, who faithfully greet and take up the offering each Sunday. It is a privilege for me to serve along side them.

Anne Harper & Greg Nobles in memory of the Rev. Buddy Enniss

Ann & Rod Hunter in memory of Thomas & Catherine Covington;  
and William & Mabel Hunter

Marcia Hunter in loving memory of Tom Banyai

Tim & Kristie Johns in memory of Lynda Young and Terry Foxx

Martha Kimes in memory of Bill Kimes, Steve Bacon, Kemie Nix and Joel Rea

Hugh Landrum & Susan Landrum in memory of Shirley Landrum

Rand, Katherine, Penelope & Henry Lines in memory of Katherine Marie Shell Hess; Willie Mae Coffey Jones; Lois Reeves McDonald; and Mildred Jesse Rand Lines, who worked so hard to make the holidays special.

Mark Wallace Maguire & family in memory of Kemie Nix

Debbie & Jerry Miller in honor of the wonderful Central staff and pastors

Julie Moore in memory of Bill & Lucy Moore

Family of Howard Hunnicutt in memory of Howard Hunnicutt

Vicki Norman in memory of Margaret & Tom Norman

Bobbie & Rod Paul in memory of Peggy Hendrix; and in honor of Shannon Kershner and Kate Culver

Brandon, Sarah & Serena Perkins; Grace Paulsen & Danny del Aguila; and Steve Paulsen in honor of their parents, Pete & Beth Paulsen

Carolyn Porter & Karen Sugrue in memory of George H. Porter, Jr; J. David Porter; and Ann M. Wood

Jackie Randolph in memory of her parents, Jerry and Lillie Reese

Peg & Charlie Richards in memory of James McDowell & Evelyn Knight Richards; Emory Lamar; Katherine Owen McGinty; and Kemie Nix

Peg Richards in memory of Sue Yeargan Huey

Kristeen Sorrells in memory of Eleanor & Jack Sorrells

Ellen Thompson in memory of Janet & Bill Thompson

Sean Smith and Mary Lillian Walker in memory of Jack Halsell; and in honor of JoAlice Halsell

Anne Watkins in honor of Central Presbyterian Church Staff

Beth Webb-Woods in memory of Dennis Woods

Juliana Winters in honor of Martha Kimes and Isabelle Werber

Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown  
Deacon of the Day: David York  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team

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

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

Give

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



Music is printed under Onelicense.netAA-710014 | CCS License No. 11974 | CCLI License No. 1950421

This Week at Central

December 22 - December 29, 2024

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

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day  
Church Offices closed

Thursday, December 26

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

Friday, December 27

Church Offices closed

Saturday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite  
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class  
(Greene Room)  
Sojourners Class  
(Brotherhood Room)  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

