

This Week at Central

December 29, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Sunday, December 29

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

Monday, December 30

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 31

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

Wednesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

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

Friday, January 3

Church Office Closing at Noon

Saturday, January 4

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 5

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
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. Congregational Lunch

Church offices will be closed Christmas Day through Wednesday, January 1. We will not be publishing our Weekly News emails during that period. Look for the Weekly News email again on Wednesday, January 9.

Pick Up Choir takes place January 5

Central will hold a "Pick Up Choir" on January 5 as we celebrate Epiphany that day with a wonderful arrangement of a Traditional Spiritual, "Walk In The Light" by André Thomas. We will meet at 10:20 a.m. in the sanctuary and practice until 10:40 a.m..

No experience or preparation necessary - but if you'd like a copy of the music and a recording to familiarize yourself, feel free to email Thom Dixon at tdixon@cpcatlanta.org. We welcome all voices and abilities into this wonderful community!

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 First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



From the Three, Hannah Garrity

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude
Improvisation
Mason Copeland, organ

Welcome and Announcements Susan Landrum

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

Praise the Lord, all of creation!
God is exalted in heaven and earth.
In sun and moon and shining stars,
God is exalted in heaven and earth.
In sea creatures, land beasts, and flying birds,
God is exalted in heaven and earth.
From young to old, from princes to peasants,
God is exalted in heaven and earth.
Raise up your horns, lift up your voice,
for God is exalted in heaven and earth! Hallelujah!

✦ Hymn 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn
of your light in Jesus Christ,
we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world.
We celebrate the birth of our savior,
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.
We are called to pursue justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with you;
yet we are content to seek our own comfort
and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need.
By the light of the Christ child,
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation ...** *(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 582 *Glory to God,
Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD
(VASILE)

**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.

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Susan Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Lucy Baum

First Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Second Lesson Luke 2:41–52 Susan Landrum

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

✦ Affirmation of Faith Lucy Baum
ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.27
**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ,
the Word of God incarnate,
to whom the Holy Spirit
bears unique and authoritative witness
through the Holy Scriptures,
which are received and obeyed
as the word of God written.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Wexford Carol* Traditional Irish Carol
Thomas Dixon, soloist, Mason Copeland, piano arr. Richard Walters

✦ At the Presentation

✦ Prayer of Dedication Lucy Baum

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 *On this Day Earth Shall Ring* PERSONENT HODIE

✦ Charge and Benediction Susan Landrum

✦ Postlude *Noel X* Louis-Claude Daquin
Mason Copeland, organ

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Lucy Baum
Tower Bell Ringer: Bobbie Paul
Deacon of the Day: Lucy Baum
Dean Hammond, Volunteer
Technology Director

Hospitality Team
A faithful group of Central members.

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 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!

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.