

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Kathy McCloud  
Choir Guild: Marcia Hunter  
Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown  
Deacon of the Day: Linda Massengill  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer  
Technology Director

Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Martha Haythorn  
Kathy Kohn  
Norm Kohn  
Kathy McCloud

## 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!

**Advent Marketplace and Congregational Lunch.** Please join us in Tull Hall for fun, fellowship and mission during our annual Advent Marketplace and Congregational Luncheon today immediately following worship. All are welcome.

### 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 dates:

Dinner for 70 men on Wednesday, Dec. 11

Dinner for 70 men on Thursday, Jan. 30

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

## This Week at Central

### December 8 - December 15, 2024

#### Sunday, December 8

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. Congregational Lunch & Advent Marketplace  
1:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Suite)

#### Monday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)  
11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle Christmas Gathering

#### Tuesday, December 10

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

#### Wednesday, December 11

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 12

7:00 p.m. WMA Committee (Zoom)  
Facilities Committee (Zoom)  
Admin Committee (Zoom)

#### Friday, December 13

10:00 a.m. OAC Guests Holiday Party (Courtyard)  
12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

#### Saturday, December 14

Church Office Closed  
2:00 p.m. Ballethnic Urban Nutcraker

#### 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)

**Help Central OAC Throw Its Annual Guest Holiday Party.** We would like to invite you to join us on Friday, December 13 at 10 a.m. for our annual guest holiday party. If you would like to provide food for this event, that would be great! We welcome baked goods, protein items, and fruit. It's best if it is a finger food type of item, not an item that requires serving utensils. Please RSVP to Kimberly Parker ([kparker@centraloac.org](mailto:kparker@centraloac.org)) if you want to attend and/or if you can provide a food item. We hope you will be able to join us for a favorite event of the year!

**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@cpatlanta.org](mailto:kjohns@cpatlanta.org)

## Give

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



The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



*Let All Creation Dance, Lisle Gwynn Garrity*





# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645 J.S. Bach  
Mason Copeland, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Choral Introit *The Lord is My Light* Michael Bedford  
Children's Choir, Kelly Grba, conductor, Thomas Chafin, piano

Ringing 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 Kimberly Parker and Ellen Dunn  
In a weary and worn world,  
how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?  
**Let us begin together.**  
**Let us begin arm in arm.**  
**Let us begin by holding each other up,  
instead of tearing each other down.**  
**Let us begin with words of peace.**  
Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we  
light the candles of hope and peace.  
May these lights remind us of what  
could be.  
**May these lights mark a new beginning.**  
**May peace flow like a river, and may it  
start with us.**  
Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.  
May we begin again. Amen.

Hymn 88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.**

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

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Kate Culver  
In a world that is lonely,  
**we will save a seat for you.**  
In a world that is anxious,  
**we will light candles against the gloom.**  
In a world that is weary,  
**we will sing songs of joy and truth.**  
I am not alone.  
**We are not alone.**  
For here in this place, God is weaving us together.  
**Light the candles! Sing with joy!**  
**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

✠ Hymn 363 *Come Down, O Love Divine* DOWN AMPNEY

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession  
**Holy God,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with  
love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus ... (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  
(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 & Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination Kathy McCloud

First Lesson Philippians 4:4-7

Second Lesson Luke 3:7-18 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

✠ Affirmation of Faith  
ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.19  
**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.  
He was the fulfillment  
of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Pray that Jerusalem* Charles Villiers Stanford  
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, organ

✠ 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

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 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* O-SO-SO

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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

G C D7 G (chords continue)  
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 Improvisation on *Veni* Veni Emmanuel  
Mason Copeland, organ