

Communion of the People

We will partake communion via intinction. You may proceed to the station closest to you, pick a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, partake of the elements, and return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, we will serve you while you remain seated.

Prayer After Communion

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✦ Hymn 482	<i>Baptized in the Water</i>	BUNESSAN
✦ Charge and Benediction		Rev. Shanon J. Kershner
✦ Postlude	<i>Fugue in e minor</i> Mason Copeland, organ	J.S. Bach

This Week at Central

March 2 - 9, 2025

Sunday, March 2

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School Hour

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Environmental Georgia (Greene Room)

Friday, March 7

Church Office closes at noon

Saturday, March 8

Church Office closed

Sunday, March 9

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School Hour

Youth Sunday School Hour
Issues in Theology Class
(Greene Room)

Sojourners Class
(Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch (Tull Hall)
4:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Suite)

Monday, March 3

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

8:30 a.m. Homeschool Day at the Capitol
10:00 a.m. GA Water Coalition Advocacy Meeting (J. Randolph Taylor Conference Room)

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!

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) will be featured as the program for our lunch gathering following the Communion service today. CMEP will focus on the most current news from the region, including the organization's most recent trip to Israel/Palestine and other parts of the Middle East last fall. Formed in 1984, CMEP is a coalition of more than 30 national Church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote just, lasting, and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East.

IN THEIR SHOES Lace up your sneakers for this year's In Their Shoes: 10 Mile Challenge, a four week fundraising event in which participants of all ages, stages and skill levels commit to walk a total of 10 miles at their own pace beginning today to March 30 while reflecting on the distance people experiencing homelessness walk each day. On March 30, we will gather together at Central Outreach and Advocacy Center (COAC) headquarters in downtown Atlanta to enjoy lunch and walk the last mile together. This family friendly event is open to all ages, and we hope you will join us immediately following worship. All proceeds benefit the Central Outreach & Advocacy Center. <https://centraloac.org/>

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Khaliah Johnson
Tower Bell Ringer: Marci Bozeman
Deacon of the Day: Isabelle Werber
Dean Hammond, Volunteer
Technology Director

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Kevin Byers
Tricia Downing
Martha Kimes
Em McNair
Isabelle Werber

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
Sarah Anderson, Video Assistant
Hala Hess White, Communications Associate

Give

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



Celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord

MARCH 2, 2025

Worship begins at 11 a.m.



The Good That is Yours, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Prelude in e minor* J.S. Bach
Mason Copeland, organ

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 worshipping God.

✠ Call to Worship Naomi McQuiller
Holy Triune God, author of community, come baptize us.
Remind us what it means to belong to one another.
God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.
Reveal to us your power that ushers in new realms.
God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.
Declare to us your great delight and hold us in your pleasure.
God of vulnerability, come baptize us.
Welcome us into the paradox of strength that comes from weakness.
Together, let us remember this day.
In the Creator's love we are held, into Christ's body we are baptized, and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed. All glory to God.

✠ Hymn 375 *Shall We Gather at the River* HANSON PLACE

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us.
Forgive us for refusing your grace and rejecting your name. We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you. Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit. Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may go in the way of 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 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

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 & Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination Khaliah Johnson

First Lesson Isaiah 43:1-7

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

Second Lesson Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 488 *I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry* WATERLIFE

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

✠ Baptismal Litany
Remember your baptism and be glad!
The waters of God's mercy have flowed, and we have been cleansed and refreshed.
Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God's salvation.
With the people of old, we have been freed from our oppression and brought to a new land.
Remember Jesus at the River Jordan;
the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.
We are redeemed by Jesus, called to live his righteousness.
May God be our help.
Remember God's grace; we are redeemed by Jesus and not by who we are or what we do.
Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!
Remember your baptism and be glad!
We remember and our lives are filled with joy.

✠ Profession of Faith and Renunciations

✠ 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.

Blessing Over the Waters

Proclamation and Invitation for Remembrance

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *At the River* arr. Aaron Copland
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

✠ 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 Rev. Kate Culver

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus Hymn 552 *Holy, Holy, Holy* LAND OF REST

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

... Great is the mystery of faith!

Memorial Acclamation Hymn 553 *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen* LAND OF REST

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
F C F B^b C F C F/A Am

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

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.

Words of Institution