

**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!

**IN THEIR SHOES:** The OAC's annual fundraiser takes place following worship today.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST MARCH.** Join us for the National Day of Protest March on Saturday, April 5. We invite you to stand together for justice and change. The protest march from Piedmont Park to the Capitol will begin at 1:30 p.m., and Central Presbyterian Church will be there—marching as a group. How You Can Get Involved:



- 10:00 a.m. Help us make powerful protest signs and decorate the church fence with messages of solidarity.
- 1:00 p.m. Join fellow marchers as we take MARTA to Piedmont Park.
- 3:00 p.m. Support marchers by providing water and offering a place to rest here at Central in the Courtyard.

Whether you choose to create signs, march, or provide support, your presence makes a difference! Scan the QR code to sign up for a volunteer role. We'd love for you to be part of this meaningful day!

**CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP.** On Sunday, April 6 join us at noon to enjoy a delicious meal and meaningful time together as we connect with friends old and new. We can't wait to see you there! Go to Realm to register or scan the QR code.



**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION.** On April 13 at 9:45 a.m. join us in the Courtyard before we parade around the block with our friends at Trinity UMC and The Shrine.

**GEORGIA TECH CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT.** Join us on April 13 in the sanctuary at 2 p.m.

**EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH.** Sean Smith and Mary Lillian Walker will host the Easter Egg Hunt at their home on April 13 at 4:00 p.m. The hunt will begin promptly at 4:15. Please go to Realm to RSVP or email Mary Lillian marylillian1031@gmail.com.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:** Join us on April 18 at 7 p.m. at Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 as we observe this special day with Morningside and Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Join us in Tull Fellowship Hall for breakfast for all before worship. No registration is needed.

**WATCH US BLOOM!** Central has joined the Downtown Native Plant Initiative and will be converting the portion of the Memorial Garden along Washington Street into a pollinator garden. If you would like to help with this fun project, please contact Ginger Heidbreder (770-367-2524) or Mary Lillian Walker (404-229-4526).

## Special Participants in Today’s Worship

**Liturgist:** Kimberly Parker, Executive Director,  
Outreach & Advocacy Center  
**Lector:** Melanie Bliss  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Tricia Berrett  
**Deacon of the Day:** Martha Kimes  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

## 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



Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 30, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Shoes, Kimberly Parker

### Give

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



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Let us Ever Walk with Jesus</i> Mason Copeland, organ	Paul Manz
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.*

✠ Call to Worship	Rev. Kate Culver
God, you have brought us to this life and this day. <b>You have brought us to this place and to each other.</b> You have sought us out and found us. <b>You have run to us and welcomed us home.</b> Open our hearts as we worship you this day. <b>Help us to be your people in the world.</b>	

✠ Hymn 475	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	NETTLETON
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✠ Call to Confession
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✠ Prayer of Confession  
**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from you ways. We have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we forsake your law and your love. Forgive us. Draw our wandering hearts back to you, that we might find freedom in your love...**  
*(Silent Confession)* **Amen.**

✠ Extinguishing the Fourth Lenten Candle		
Hymn 579	<i>Kyrie</i>	KYRIE ELEISON
(Sing each line three times)		
<b>Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.</b>		

✠ Assurance of Pardon		
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. <b>In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!</b>		

✠ Passing of the Peace
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✠ Hymn 422	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>	CREATE IN ME (Capers)
<b>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.</b>		

*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	
Prayer for Illumination	Melanie Bliss	
First Lesson	Psalm 32	
Second Lesson	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	Following Jesus through the Gospel of Luke	

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 418	<i>Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling</i>	SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
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✠ Affirmation of Faith	Kimberly Parker
THE APOSTLES' CREED (TRADITIONAL)	
<b>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.</b>	

Offertory Sentence
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Music at the Offertory	<i>My Song is Love Unknown</i>	arr. Molly Ijames
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano		

My song is love unknown—  
my Savior’s love to me;  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew His way,  
and His sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,  
and for His death they thirst and cry

Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run;  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet these are why  
the Lord most cruelly dies..

Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

✠ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
<b>Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.</b>		

✠ Prayer of Dedication
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Moment for Mission	Kimberly Parker
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Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
TRADITIONAL <b>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.</b>

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 74	<i>When God Restored Our Common Life</i>	RESIGNATION
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✠ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
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Postlude	<i>Prelude and Fugue in G minor</i>	J. S. Bach
Mason Copeland, Organ		

This Week at Central

March 30 - April 6, 2025

<b>Sunday, March 30</b> 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. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School Hour Youth Sunday School Hour Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology (Greene Room) Lamenting Racism (Brotherhood Room) The Gospel of John (The Parlor)		<b>Thursday, April 3</b> 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)	
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. In Their Shoes, OAC Annual Fundraiser and Lunch (Tull Hall) 4:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Suite)		<b>Friday, April 4</b> 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes	
<b>Monday, March 31</b> 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		<b>Saturday, April 5</b> 10:00 a.m. National Day of Protest March	
<b>Tuesday, April 1</b> 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)		<b>Sunday, April 6</b> 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology (Greene Room) Lamenting Racism (Brotherhood Room) The Gospel of John (The Parlor) 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch & Learning (Tull Hall)	
<b>Wednesday, April 2</b> 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal			

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