

WELCOME TO CENTRAL! During your visit we hope you feel the presence of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we worship God together. Please fill out the Friendship Pads in the pews, especially if you are a visitor or have prayer concerns or life updates.

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!

SAVE THE DATE! MUSIC AND ARTS SUNDAY — JUNE 1
You won’t want to miss this joyful celebration of Central’s vibrant Music and Arts community! Join us for a special worship service filled with beauty, creativity, and inspiration. The sanctuary will come alive with stunning visual art by Central members, the shimmering sounds of two anthems from the Geneva Handbell Choir, and a powerful musical offering from the Chancel Choir: *Chandos Anthem No. 4: O Sing Unto the Lord* by George Frideric Handel, featuring guest soloists and orchestra. Come celebrate the gifts of music and art that enrich our worship and community life — and bring a friend to share in the joy!

PREACHING TODAY: Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is the co-author of *You Only Get What You’re Organized to Take: Lessons from the Movement to End Poverty* (Beacon, 2025), co-editor of *We Pray Freedom: Liturgies and Rituals from the Freedom Church of the Poor* (Broadleaf Press, 2025), editor of *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign* (Broadleaf Press, 2021), author of *Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor* (Eerdmans, 2017) and co-author of *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing* (Beacon, 2018). She has been published in The New York Times, Washington Post, Time Magazine, Newsweek, Politico, The Hill, The Guardian, The Nation, Boston Review, CNN, Religion News Service, Sojourners, Religion Dispatches, the Grio, La Jornada, Salon, Slate, and elsewhere.



The recipient of numerous recognitions and awards including the 30th Annual Freedom Award by the National Civil Rights Museum, Selma “Bridge” Award, the Hunger Leadership Award from the Congressional Hunger Center, Women of Faith Award by the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Villanova Peace Award, Rev. Dr. Theoharis has been named one of 15 Faith Leaders to Watch by the Center for American Progress, one of 11 Women Shaping the Church by Sojourners, one of the Politico 50 “thinkers, doers and visionaries whose ideas are driving politics,” and more.

Rev. Dr. Theoharis has been organizing among poor and low-income communities for thirty years with organizations such as the National Union of the Homeless, the National Welfare Rights Union, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Domestic Workers United and many more. She is co-founder and co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Raised in a family committed to social justice, civil liberties and human rights, she has been involved in the movement for her whole life.

Rev. Dr. Theoharis received her BA in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania; her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 2004 where she was the first William Sloane Coffin Scholar; and her PhD from Union in New Testament and Christian Origins.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
Lector: Lucy Baum
Tower Bell Ringer: Bobbie Paul
Deacon of the Day: Ellen Thompson

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



6th Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

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
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 Production Manager
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director



We Are All Warmed by the Same Sun, Helen Murrell

Give

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



Gathering Around the Word

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| Prelude | <i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> Thomas Chafin, piano | arr. Becki Slagle Mayo |
| 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 worshiping God.*

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| ✠ Call to Worship | Rev. Kate Culver |
| Be gracious to us and bless us; O God, show us favor. | |
| May your way, O God, be known upon the earth; | |
| may your deliverance be known among the nations. | |
| Peoples will praise you, O God; all peoples will praise you. | |
| Nations will exult and shout for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity; you guide the nations of the earth. | |
| The peoples will praise you, O God; all people will praise you. | |
| Let us worship God! | |


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| ✠ Hymn 403 | <i>Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty</i> | UNSER HERRSCHER |
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| ✠ Call to Confession |
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| ✠ Prayer of Confession |
| Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit.... <i>(Silent Confession)</i> Amen. |

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| ✠ Assurance of Pardon |
| Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! |

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| ✠ Passing of the Peace |
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| ✠ Hymn 587 | <i>Alleluia</i> (sing twice) | CELTIC ALLELUIA |
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During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.

Proclaiming the Word

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| A Time with Children | Susan Landrum | |
| Prayer for Illumination | Lucy Baum | |
| Psalm 67 | <i>Psalter for Christian Worship</i> Text: Michael Morgan | HYFRYDOL |

**God of mercy and compassion,
Lord of love, redeeming grace;
Let the brightness of Your glory
Shine upon us in this place.
Show all nations Your salvation,
End our dark, long-suff'ring days;
Cause our hearts with joy to greet You;
Fill the earth with songs of praise!**

**Sing with joy, the Lord is coming!
God with us, Immanuel,
Brings in triumph our salvation,
Death shall die, and life prevail.
In the wisdom of God's justice
Righteousness shall conquer scorn;
On God's head, the crown of nations;
In God's heart, a crown of thorns.**

**Come, Almighty, now and bless us,
Your great covenant renew;
May creation yield its increase,
Find its greatest gift in You.
Ev'ry tongue shall call You blessed,
Ev'ry voice a welcome bring
To the Word of God incarnate;
Earth shall bow, and heaven sing!**

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| Second Lesson | Mark 5:25-34 | Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis |
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| Sermon | You Only Get What You're Organized to Take and Other Lessons on Organizing From Jesus | |
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Responding to the Word

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| ✠ Hymn 490 | <i>Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters</i> | BEACH SPRING |
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| ✠ Affirmation of Faith | Susan Landrum |
| ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR | |
| We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought; We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; have one God and Creator, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, work for one cause, and share one hope and together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ. | |

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| Offertory Sentence |
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| Music at the Offertory | <i>Like a River Glorious</i> Thomas Chafin, piano | arr. Bob Walters |
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| ✠ At the Presentation | <i>Doxology</i> | LASST UNS ERFREUEN |
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**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!**

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| ✠ Prayer of Dedication |
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| 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

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| ✠ Hymn 295 | <i>Go to the World!</i> | SINE NOMINE |
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| ✠ Charge and Benediction | Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis | |
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| Postlude | <i>Here I Am, Lord</i> Thomas Chafin, piano | arr. Jack Schrader |
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This Week at Central

May 25 - June 1, 2025

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| Sunday, May 25 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary | Thursday, May 29 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 11:30 a.m. Pollard/Covenant Meeting (TCR) |
| Monday, May 26 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) | Friday, May 30 10:00 a.m. OAC Movie Day (Tull Hall) 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes |
| Tuesday, May 27 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) | Saturday, May 31 9:00 a.m. Officer Training (Tull Hall) |
| Wednesday, May 28 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, June 1 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - Music & Arts Sunday |

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