

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!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH. Join us for a congregational lunch following worship on October 5th, World Communion Sunday. We will have a meal featuring Mediterranean food. We'll also have an opportunity to hear from Rev. Shannon and the stewardship committee about what is central to Central in these coming months. Go to Realm or our website to signup for lunch.

PRIDE FESTIVAL. Central is excited to participate in the upcoming Pride Festival on **October 11th and 12th**. On Friday, **October 10th** we need a few volunteers to bring in our booth materials. On Saturday October 11 and Sunday October 12 we will host a booth at the Festival in Piedmont Park. Also, on Sunday we will leave immediately after church and travel via MARTA to Piedmont Park to join in the parade. There may be a chance to order box lunches, so stay tuned! Please go to Realm to sign up.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Chris Sciarrone
Tower Bell Ringer:
Deacon of the Day:
Musician: Gwyn Bacon, organ

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Kathy Harben
Rachel Hull
Jackie Randolph
Mike Sizemore

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
Susan Landrum, Director of Christian Formation & Congregational Life
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
Kelly Grba, Music Intern
Aaron Cummings, Music Intern
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelate, Video Assistant
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 28, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Untitled, Joseph Cornell

Give

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



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!</i> Gwyn Bacon, organ	Healey Willan
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Kate Culver
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		Susan Landrum
BASED ON ISAIAH 25:6-9 We come from all over the city and all over the world. We come here to hear a different Word, a true Word, a life-giving Word. We are here on Isaiah’s mountain where tears are wiped away, where a banquet table has been set, where death has been swallowed up forever. We do not fully understand it. We may not be able to fully believe it. And yet here it is: the power of Christ’s life within us and among us. So let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation!		

✚ Hymn 31	<i>Let Us with a Gladsome Mind</i>	MONKLAND
-----------	------------------------------------	----------

✚ Call to Confession

✚ Prayer of Confession
Holy and gracious God, we come before you today laden with heavy things - the pain of a broken world, the overwhelming strength of violence, and the outcry of your hurting creation. We carry our own personal burdens of worry, shame, and anxiety. What we carry causes doubt and we shrink away from your love. We forget the truth revealed in Christ that tears will be wiped away, that we do not carry our burdens alone. We seek your forgiveness so that we might be renewed in your promises, turning our tears into rivers of love for one another and all of creation ... <i>(Silent Confession)</i> Amen.

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

✚ Passing of the Peace

✚ Hymn 445	<i>God, How Can We Forgive</i>	LEONI
God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn? How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn? When human loving fails and every hope is gone, your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.		

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		Chris Sciarrone
First Lesson	Isaiah 25:6-9	
Second Lesson	Luke 5:33-39	Rev. Kate Culver
Sermon	This is What Church Could Be <i>Reformed and Reforming</i>	

Responding to the Word

✚ Hymn 252	<i>Day of Arising</i>	RAABE
------------	-----------------------	-------

✚ Affirmation of Faith	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept our-selves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church...	

...In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to un-mask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Bob Chilcott
Chancel Choir, Janet Abercrombie, soloist, Karen Brown, piano		

	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art; Be thou my best thought in the day and the night, Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
	Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord; Be thou my Redeemer, my love thou has won; Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
	Be thou and thou only the first in my heart; O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art; Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

✚ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	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

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 429	<i>As a Chalice Cast of Gold</i>	INWARD LIGHT
------------	----------------------------------	--------------

✚ Charge and Benediction		Rev. Kate Culver
--------------------------	--	------------------

Postlude	<i>Hyfrydol</i> Gwyn Bacon, organ	Robin Dinda
----------	--------------------------------------	-------------

This Week at Central September 28 - October 5, 2025

Sunday, September 28 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir) 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) Bible Study (Parlor) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall) 12:30 p.m. Senior Lunch	Thursday, October 2 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 1:00 p.m. Advent Resources for All Ages (Zoom) Friday, October 3 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes Saturday, October 4 Church Office Closed Sunday, October 5 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir) 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) Bible Study (Parlor) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir) 5:30 p.m. Youth Group
Monday, September 29 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	
Tuesday, September 30 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)	
Wednesday, October 1 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Table Talk: Gathering to Heal the Divide (Clairmont Pres. Church) 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	