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!

HELP OUR FRIENDS AT THE NIGHT SHELTER. The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve. Volunteers will serve guests of the night shelter by providing sack lunches. There is also a need for people to serve dinner, provide breakfast snacks, and volunteers overnight. They will need lunch bags, dinner and breakfast for 70 men. If you or your group is interested or if you have questions, please contact Ben Sutton at ben.t.sutton@gmail.com to see what dates that Central Presbyterian will be volunteering to serve our neighbors.

COME ROLL OUT YOUR YOGA MAT! Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Kate Culver & Kerri Shannon's house. Come roll out your mat in Kate and Kerri's living room for a relaxed make-up yoga class — laughter, breath, and flow included. Jan 15th 6-7:30. Bring water, your yoga mat, and any other needed props. Please RSVP in Realm so we can know who is coming. Limited to 5–10 participants.

CENTRAL WOMEN'S JANUARY GATHERING
The first 2026 Central Women's Gathering will be on January 15 at 7 p.m. at the home of Debbie Miller. Bede Campbell will be the presenter. Bede will discuss her years and experiences as a docent for Zoo Atlanta, encompassing animal conservation, animal welfare, and the study of animal behavior.

BOOKWORMS Join us on January 27 at 7:00 p.m. for a lively and enjoyable discussion of *The Life & Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. Our conversation will be facilitated by Mike Coleman and graciously hosted by Frances St. John. We'd love to have you with us! If you have any questions, please contact Linda McCord.

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Liturgist: Rev. Trace Haythorn
Lector: Hugh Landrum
Tower Bell Ringer: Marci Bozeman
Deacon of the Day: Peg Richards

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
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelate, Video Assistant
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Give

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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201Washington St. Atlanta, Ga. 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Ceremonial Urn, Steven Goldberg

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude — *In the Bleak Midwinter* — Joseph Martin
Don Papenbrock, piano

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Kate Culver

Ringing 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.

✝ Call to Worship — Rev. Trace Haythorn
The One who formed us knows us completely.
The One who teaches us does not abandon us.
We come seeking understanding and steadfast love.
When our hearts are unsettled,
when we do not fully understand what God is doing,
We trust the faithfulness of the Holy One.
Come, all who are still learning.
Come, all who are growing in wisdom.
Let us worship God,
whose word is our comfort
and whose presence holds us fast.

✝ Hymn 132 — *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* — IN DULCI JUBILO

✝ Call to Confession

✝ Prayer of Confession
Faithful God,
you call us to grow in wisdom and grace,
yet we confess how often we resist that slow work.

We want clarity when you offer mystery.
We want answers when you invite us to listen.
We want movement when you call us to stay and learn.

Forgive us when impatience shapes our faith.
Forgive us when fear keeps us from trusting your presence in what we do not yet understand.

Return us to your word.
Steady our hearts with your mercy.
Form us again in love and truth … *(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 137 — *He Came Down* — HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination — Hugh Landrum

First Lesson — Psalm 119:73–80

Second Lesson — Luke 2:41–52 — Rev. Kate Culver

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✝ Hymn 139 — *That Boy-Child of Mary* — BLANTYRE

✝ Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Trace Haythorn
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.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory — *I Wonder as I Wander* — Mark Hayes
Don Papenbrock, 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

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 134 — *Joy to the World* — ANTIOCH

✝ Charge and Benediction — Rev. Kate Culver

Postlude — *Postlude on 'In dulci jubilo'* — Leo Sowerby
Don Papenbrock, organ

This Week at Central

December 28 - January 4, 2026

Sunday, December 28
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 29
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Thursday, January 1
Church Office closed

Friday, January 2
Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 3
Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 4
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
Sojourners Class (Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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

Music is printed under Onelicense.net AA-710014 | CCS License No. 11974 | CCLI License No. 1950421