

**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!

**BOOKWORM GATHERING.** Central's Bookworms will meet **Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.** in the community room at Heritage Place (211 Colonial Homes Drive NW). The Blankinships will host, and Chip will lead discussion of *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon—a compelling historical novel inspired by the journals of midwife Martha Ballard, exploring justice and resilience. For questions, contact Linda McCord. To attend, email Chip at blankinchip@gmail.com. Join us—we have much to discuss!

**NO KINGS MARCH.** The next march is **Saturday, March 28** (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., time may change). Central will host a water station along the route and needs volunteers—bell ringers, monitors for Tull Hall, bathrooms, and the courtyard, sign makers, and water distributors. To join the Call to Action email list, contact Mary Lillian Walker (please note if you can ring the bell). Thank you!

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL.** On **March 29th 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.

**EASTER EGG HUNT.** Sean Smith and Mary Lillian Walker will host the Easter Egg Hunt for all children up to 5th grade at their home on **March 29th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Please go to Realm to RSVP or email Susan Landrum.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNERS.** The Maundy Thursday dinners will happen on **April 2.** Mark it on your calendar and look for the registrations.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:** Join us on **April 3 at 7 p.m.** at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2461 Peachtree Rd., Atlanta, GA 30305, as we observe this special day with Morningside and Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Join us on Easter Sunday, **April 5th at 9:45 a.m.** in Tull Fellowship Hall for breakfast for all before worship. No registration is required.

**IN THEIR SHOES.** Joining us in Tull Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m.** for our annual fundraiser walk. Together we will walk two miles at a leisurely pace through the neighborhood while learning about several of the places where OAC guests go to seek additional services and support. This experience offers a meaningful glimpse into the daily journey many of our neighbors take. All are welcome to participate. You can sign up by scanning the QR code.



**CONCERTS IN AMERICA: YAMANDU COSTA.** We will host Yamandu Costa at Central in the Sanctuary on **Friday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.** This Grammy Award-winning artist is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest 7-string guitar virtuosos, known for his intense performances and flawless technique. His concerts are vibrant celebrations of Brazilian culture and musical mastery. We are seeking six volunteer ushers. Please contact Melissa Johnson to sign up—volunteers receive complimentary admission. To purchase tickets, scan the QR code.



## Special Participants in Today's Worship

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Trace Haythorn  
**Lector:** Peg Richards  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Jason Bliss  
**Deacon of the Day:** Linda Massengill

**Hospitality Team**  
Beth Grashof  
Becky Battle  
Liz Burkhardt  
Philip Covin  
Sandy Hoke  
Linda Massengill  
Chris Sciarrone  
Ellen Thompson

## Centralites Under Care of the Session As They Prepare for Ordained Ministry

Christian Antwi  
Samuel Ayantor  
Lucy Baum  
Ximena Leroux

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Susan B. Landrum, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus  
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts  
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist  
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations  
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](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.



Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2026  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



*We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep,* Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Méditation* Maurice Duruflé  
Don Papenbrock, 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 Rev. Kate Culver  
Come, let us gather at the place where truth stands before power.  
**We come to behold the One who bears the weight of the world.**  
Jesus stands before the crowd mocked, wounded, crowned with thorns.  
**Still, the light shines, and the truth cannot be silenced.**  
The world asks, “What is truth?”  
**And Love stands quietly before us.**  
We come not as spectators, but as people in need of mercy.  
**We come to see Christ, and to be changed.**  
Come, let us worship the One whose kingdom is not built on fear or force.  
**We worship the One whose power is love.**

✦ Hymn 444 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* DETROIT

Call to Confession

Lenten Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not stood with truth  
or followed the way of love. Too often we choose comfort over  
courage, silence over mercy, and judgment over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, we pray. Turn us again toward Christ, that we may  
walk in his way with humility and faith.... (Silent Confession) Amen.**

Hymn 579 *Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON  
(Orthodox)

**Lord, have mercy. (Sung three times)**  
**Christ, have mercy. (Sung three times)**  
**Lord, have mercy. (Sung three times)**

Extinguishing the Fifth Lenten Candle

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

✦ Passing of the Peace

✦ Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.**  
**Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**  
**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.**  
**Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

*During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.*

## Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Rev. Susan B. Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Jim Beaty

First Lesson Psalm 146  
Second Lesson John 19:1-16a Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon **Jesus' Journey through John**  
*Jesus and the Crowds*

## Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 171 *A Sower Came from Ancient Hills* SEACHRIST

✦ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Susan B. Landrum  
RESPONSIVE ADAPTATION OF SELECTIONS FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH  
We trust in Jesus Christ,  
**Fully human, fully God.**  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**  
**teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing**  
**the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,**  
**forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the  
world.  
**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,**  
**breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life**  
**eternal. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Christus Paradox* PICARDY arr. Arthur V. Fedak  
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and swordbringer  
of the way you took and gave.  
You the everlasting instant;  
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
stripped of might upon the cross,  
shining in eternal glory,  
beggar'd by a soldier's toss,  
You the everlasting instant;  
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,  
sit in power at God's side.  
You, who preach a way that's narrow,  
have a love that reaches wide.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.  
Worthy still your peace and strife.

You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are our death and life.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are our death and our life.

Holy! Holy! Holy!  
You, who are our death and our life.

✦ At the Presentation *Lenten Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

✦ 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 224 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ROCKINGHAM

✦ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures* Maurice Duruflé  
*de la cathédrale de Soissons*  
Don Papenbrock, organ

## This Week at Central

### March 22 - 29, 2025

**Sunday, March 22**  
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)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children &  
Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Senior Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall)  
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir)  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

**Monday, March 23**  
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
11:30 a.m. Georgia PTA Lobby Day  
(Sanctuary & Tull Hall)

**Tuesday, March 24**  
9:00 a.m. Faith in Public Life (Taylor)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. Bookworms Gathering

**Wednesday, March 25**  
8:00 a.m. Georgia Muslim Voter Project  
(Rand Chapel)  
8:00 a.m. Pharmacy Day at the Capitol  
(Tull Hall)  
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
9:30 a.m. GA Water Coalition (Taylor)  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 26**  
9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly  
Meet-Up (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Environmental GA (Greene)  
7:00 p.m. Thirsty Thursday (Manuel's Tavern)

**Friday, March 27**  
8:00 a.m. Forward Together RFA Day of  
Action (Sanctuary & Tull Hall)  
Church Office closes at noon

**Saturday, March 28**  
Church Office Closed  
10:00 a.m. No Kings March (time can change)

**Sunday, March 29**  
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge  
9:15 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)  
9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional (gather  
in the courtyard)  
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.**