

**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!

**SANCTUARY FLOWER FUND.** During Lent, curly willow stems in the sanctuary reflect the season's quiet, contemplative spirit. As Easter approaches and flowers return, you're invited to support the Sanctuary Flower Fund, which enhances the beauty of worship on Easter, communion Sundays, and other special occasions. To be listed in the Easter bulletin, please give by **Wednesday, April 1.** Scan the QR to donate online, or pay by check in the offering plate, or Kristie Johns' folder. Please note "flowers" on the memo line of checks.



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

**MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNERS.** As we enter Holy Week, you are invited to gather for Maundy Thursday dinners on **April 2 at 6:00 p.m.** in five host homes. Visit Realm to choose the home you'd like to attend, then follow the Signup Genius link for that host to sign up to bring a dish. We hope you will join us for this meaningful evening of fellowship, shared table, and worship.

**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.** Join 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. **Go to Realm to sign up.**

**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.



**CALLING ALL ARTISTS! CONGREGATIONAL ART SHOW!** We invite submissions for our upcoming Congregational Art Show. All visual art forms are welcome, including painting, drawing, ceramics, fabric, mixed media, and photography. To participate, please complete the submission form (one per piece) by **Sunday, April 19.** Space is limited, so early sign-up is encouraged. Artwork should be delivered to Tull Hall on **Sunday, April 26.** The exhibit will be installed the following week and will remain on display through August. **Go to Realm to sign up.**

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Ann Hunter  
Tower Bell Ringer: Chantal Tusher  
Deacon of the Day: Larken McCord

Hospitality Team:  
A faithful group of  
Central members



## 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.



*Toward Jerusalem, Lauren Wright Pittman*

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Fantasia in C minor, BWV 537* Johann Sebastian Bach  
Don Papenbrock, organ

*The prelude will flow seamlessly into the opening hymn.  
Please rise to sing during the introduction to the hymn.*

✠ Processional Hymn 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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 worshiping God.*

Introit *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!* arr. Sandra Eithun  
Jerusalem Choir Handbells, Karen Brown, piano

## Liturgy of the Palms

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Susan B. Landrum

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**We welcome the one who comes from God.**

Crowds once lined the road with palm branches, shouting praise and hope.

**We come to lift our voices in joy.**

Yet the road before Jesus leads beyond celebration—beyond cheering  
crowds—toward suffering and the cross.

**There, and throughout Jesus's life among us, we see the depth of  
God's love.**

So we gather with praise and with humility.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Let us worship the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**

**We join the crowds in shouting Hosanna,  
yet we confess how easily our praise fades.**

**We welcome you in moments of celebration,**

**but hesitate to follow when the path leads to the cross.**

**Forgive us for seeking power instead of humble love,  
and comfort instead of faithful discipleship.**

**Turn our hearts again to Jesus Christ,  
our teacher, our crucified and risen Savior.... (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 Sixth 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 Ann Hunter

First Lesson John 12:12-27

Second Lesson John 19:16b-22 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon **Jesus' Journey through John**  
*Final Things*

## Responding to the Word

### Liturgy of the Passion

✠ Hymn 200 *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd* CHRISTIAN LOVE

✠ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver

THE 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 *Aria for Handbells* Dale Wood  
Geneva Handbell Choir, Kelly Grba, conductor

A way to Calvary leadeth from dark Gethsemane,  
May every one behold him who weary walks that way,  
The way doth lead to perfect bliss, but a way of pain it is.

✠ At the Presentation *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 Rev. Kate Culver

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 221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* PASSION CHORALE

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* Johannes Brahms  
Don Papenbrock, organ

## This Week at Central

### March 29 - April 5, 2026

#### Palm Sunday, March 29

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional  
(Courtyard)  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
3:30 p.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt at  
Sean Smith & Mary Lillian  
Walker's home

#### Monday, March 30

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
11:30 a.m. Moral Monday - Repairers of the  
Breach (Tull Hall)

#### Tuesday, March 31

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
11:30 a.m. Migrant Equity Day at the Capitol  
(Tull Hall)

#### Wednesday, April 1

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  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Maundy Thursday, April 2

8:30 a.m. Midwife Advocacy Day (Tull Hall)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship at:  
- The Heidbreder home  
- Mary Lillian Walker & Sean  
Smith's home  
- Rev. Kate Culver's home  
- The Lum home  
- Khaliah & Aubrey Johnson's  
Home

#### Good Friday, April 3

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service at  
Covenant Presbyterian Church

#### Saturday, April 4

Church Office Closed

#### Easter Sunday, April 5

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
10:00 a.m. Biscuits and Coffee (Tull Hall)  
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.**

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