



Central Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 18, 2020 | The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Service for the Lord's Day: Worshiping Together Online



Guest Preacher: The Rev. Erin Swenson

Isaiah 56:1-8

www.cpcatlanta.org

Gathering Around the Word

Preservice Music *Allemande and Courante* (from Suite No. 1 in G Major for Solo Cello) J. S. Bach

Dessislava Nenova, Cello

Welcome Jessica Patchett

Prayer of Adoration Mary Kate McAlister

God of all Goodness,
You alone are the source of all creation – the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Where there was once emptiness, you—O, God—brought forth every good and perfect gift, to which we respond with gratitude and praise. You alone redeem us from our broken and sinful ways. In flesh, you came to walk among us. To love and to heal. To forgive and to offer generosity in ways that we cannot even imagine. You alone, Holy Spirit, meet us, still – to love and to heal. To forgive and to offer generosity. Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – We marvel at your embrace of all people, each of whom find belonging in you, a secure place in the household of God. With grateful hearts, and in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn *God of Many Faces* Stanzas 1, 2, 4 SLANE
Jennifer Sengin, Kitsy Battle, Xieyi (Abby) Zhang, Trace Haythorn, vocals; Vicki Fey, keyboard

God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,
shifting more each day through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
holier every day, still becoming more true.
Text: Amy Cerniglia from *Songs for the Holy Other*
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Invitation to Confession Jasiel H. Garcia

Silence for Personal Prayer and Reflection

Prayer of Confession (adapted from the More Light Presbyterians web-site)

Gracious God, Have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned from you and from your claimed people.
We have given ourselves to the powers of sin in division, bickering, bullying, isolation, hatred, fear and oppression.
(cont.)

We have sinned against you and your people in judgmental thoughts, careless words, and fearful deeds; by what we have said and done, and by what we have left undone. We have left members of our community isolated and alone. We have not confronted hatred and violence. We have not loved others as you have loved us. Help and empower us to continue the work of reconciliation with diligence and faith. Too many of us still waver and are unconvinced that there is a problem. Remove our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh that are softened toward our siblings. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Response *God Calls You Good, Stanza 1 (from Songs for the Holy Other)* Paul Vasile
Jennifer Sengin, vocals; Vicki Fey, keyboard

Proclaiming the Word

A Time With Children Christian Antwi

First Reading Philippians 3:12-4:1, NIV Ximena Leroux

Second Reading Isaiah 56:1-8

Sermon Erin Swenson

Anthem *The Innocence (from Considering Matthew Shepherd)* Craig Hella Johnson
Christopher McKnight, soloist; Vicki Fey, keyboard; Dessislava Nenova, cello
Lucy Baum, Matt Baum, Tricia Berrett, Trace Haythorn, Jennifer Sengin, Xieyi (Abby) Zhang, vocal ensemble

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People (*please pray as invited*) Myles Markham

God of us all, take all that weighs on our hearts as your own.
Relieve our communities of the pains of gender based violence and empower us to respond in action and in love. Our siblings of many walks of life cry out for support and solidarity.
We ask that you give us your creative power to show up for each other the way we would want others to show up for us. May we never sit still in the face of death and destruction.
Help us, God, to renounce the injustice facing our trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming siblings around the world and to join you in making the world on earth as it is in heaven.
For all of the prayers spoken, typed, thought, or felt, we ask now that you, O God, would respond. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

Hymn *Draw the Circle Wide* Mark Miller

Chancel Choir; Vicki Fey, keyboard

(Congregation, please join on the refrain, next page)

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle,
draw the circle wide.**

Text: Gordon Light

Blessing and Benediction

Michael Adee

Postlude

Draw the Circle Wide (recap)
Vicki Fey, organ

You may worship with us on [Facebook Live](#), [YouTube](#), our [website](#), or by calling into Zoom. Our service begins with pre-service music at 10:55 a.m. You will be able to submit your prayer requests on Facebook throughout the service, and they will be relayed to our staff to pray for you.

To join our service on Zoom, [click here](#). Password: 545394 Phone: 1-929-205-6099

To view a re-broadcast of the service in full at 6 p.m. Sunday, [click here](#).

You are invited to participate in **Central Shares: A Drive by Food Collection for Emmaus House and OAC (Outreach and Advocacy Center) Hygiene Kits**. It will take place THIS Sunday, Oct. 18, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. In the In-Town South Parish, it will be at the home of Beth Grashof at 1696 McLendon Ave NE Atlanta GA 30307, at the corner of McLendon Avenue and Hardendorf Avenue. There is a driveway and plenty of parking on Hardendorf. In the Decatur Parish, it will take place at Nancy Wilkes' home: 1159 Russell Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.



A conversation with artists Angela Davis Johnson and Central Member Norm Kohn about making art that addresses racism

Friday, October 23 | 7:00–9:00 PM

Register at

bit.ly/3dpGpon

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