

**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!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY.** Please stay for the Congregational Meeting after worship for a short meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons.

**CENTRAL WOMEN** will gather Thursday May 15 at the home of Francis St. John. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner (7:30) and a program/conversation (8:00-9:30). Our speaker will be our own Marci Bozeman. Marci will talk about her career in philanthropy, including elements of her current work with Earthjustice, the nation’s leading environmental law organization, and how the law and policy shape our environmental future. All Central women and friends are welcome. Please “sign up” by scanning the QR code, through Realm, or the link in the Wednesday Weekly. It’s very helpful if you can sign up by Tuesday May 13 so we will know how many people will attend. See y’all there! Questions? Ask Melanie Bliss at drmbless@me.com or Debbie Miller at debbietimmiller@gmail.com



**CENTRAL MEN COOK!** Join Us for Food, Fun & Fellowship on Sunday, May 18, after Worship. Come enjoy a special lunch café featuring delicious dishes prepared by the Men of Central Presbyterian. The men will prepare a variety of menu options (the menu is in Realm). There will be something for everyone. All proceeds support the Outreach Advocacy Center (OAC). Reservations are available by scanning the QR code, through Realm or the link in the Wednesday Weekly. Don’t miss this tasty way to support a great cause!



**BOOKWORMS** will gather at 7:00 pm (Note change from our usual time!) on Tuesday, May 20, at the home of Linda and Martin Lehfeltdt for our end-of-season potluck supper and conversation with the author, Centralite Hannah Palmer, about *The Pool Is Closed: Segregation, Summertime, and the Search for a Place to Swim*. We anticipate an engaging and timely discussion about this dark and intriguing aspect of Atlanta history and culture. Bring your copy for Hannah to sign! Please “sign up” by scanning the QR code, through Realm, or the link in the Wednesday Weekly. Questions? Contact Linda McCord.



**JULIE MURPHY AND JONATHAN VAN NESS IN CELEBRATION OF LET THEM STARE.** Charis Books and More + Charis Circle will welcome Julie Murphy and Jonathan Van Ness in celebration of *Let Them Stare*, a bighearted story about friendship, love—and discovering the secrets and beauty of your own hometown. This event will take place will take place here at Central in our sanctuary on May 21. The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the event will take place from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. You can use the QR code to sign up.



**BOOK TOUR: YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU'RE ORGANIZED TO TAKE.** On Saturday, May 24th Central will be hosting Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back, co-authors of the book, *You Only Get What You're Organized to Take: Lessons from the Movement to End Poverty*. Look for the signup in the Wednesday Weekly. **Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis will also be preaching at Central on Sunday, May 25th.**

## Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Rae Baker, cellist

**Lector:** Mike Coleman  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Althea Brown  
**Deacon of the Day:** Ed Galloway  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer  
Technology Director

**Hospitality Team**  
Beth Grashof  
Martha Haythorn  
Kathy Kohn  
Norm Kohn  
Kathy McCloud  
Isabelle Werber

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
Susan Landrum, Director of Children & Youth  
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  
Naomi McQuiller, Children & Youth Intern  
Thomas Chafin, Music Intern  
Kelly Grba, Music Intern  
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer  
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant  
Sarah Anderson, Video Assistant



4th Sunday of Easter  
May 11, 2025

Worship begins at 11 a.m.



*The Lord Is My Shepherd*, Eastman Johnson

## Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.





Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i> Rae Baker, cello	arr. Charis Lin
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
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  
The Lord is our shepherd;  
**we lack nothing.**  
Though we may walk through the darkest valley,  
**we fear no evil; for God is with us.**  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
**and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**  
Let us worship God!

✦ Hymn 268      *Crown Him with Many Crowns*      DIADEMATATA

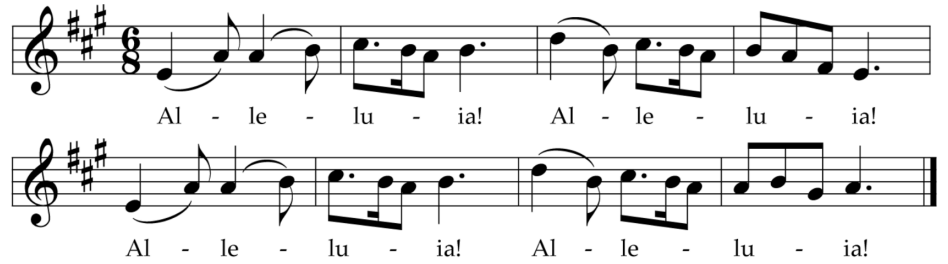
✦ Call to Confession

✦ Prayer of Confession  
**Eternal God, in the presence of our enemies, we divide and demonize. When you face our enemies, you choose neither contempt nor punishment, but set a table and make provision for us all. Our ways are not your ways, O Creator, and they are an affront to the work of your hands. Have mercy on us, O God, and heal us. Send our risen Lord among us again to repair relationships and restore humanity. Set us free to share the love of Christ Jesus just as he does at his table...**  
*(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 587      *Alleluia*      CELTIC ALLELUIA  
(sing twice)



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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children	Naomi McQuiller
Prayer for Illumination	Mike Coleman
First Lesson	Revelation 7: 9-17

Second Lesson      Psalm 23      Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 299      *You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*      HANOVER

✦ Affirmation of Faith      Naomi McQuiller  
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      *O Love*      Elaine Hagenberg  
Rae Baker, cello, Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;  
O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O joy that seeks me through the pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain... that morn shall tearless be.  
That morn shall tearless be.

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;  
O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.  
I give Thee back the life I owe;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
And in Thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be.  
That morn shall tearless be.

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;  
O love that will not let me go.

✦ 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 182      *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*      KINGSFOLD

✦ Charge and Benediction      Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude      *God of Grace*      Paul Manz  
Mason Copeland, organ

This Week at Central

May 11 - May 18, 2025

<b>Sunday, May 11</b> 11:00 a.m.      Worship in the Sanctuary	<b>Thursday, May 15</b> 10:00 a.m.      Moments of Movement (Zoom) 7:00 p.m.      Central Women
<b>Monday, May 12</b> 8:00 a.m.      Domestic Workers Alliance (Tull Hall) 9:00 a.m.      Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 11:00 a.m.      Rebekah Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.      Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	<b>Friday, May 16</b> 12:00 p.m.      Church Office closes
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b> 10:00 a.m.      Moments of Movement (Zoom) 5:00 p.m.      Children & Youth Committee (Zoom) Personnel Committee (Zoom) 6:00 p.m.      Finance Committee (Zoom)	<b>Saturday, May 17</b> Church Office Closed
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b> 9:00 a.m.      Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 3:30 p.m.      Endowment Meeting (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.      Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.      Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>Sunday, May 18</b> 8:45 a.m.      Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m.      Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m.      Doughnuts in the Youth Suite 9:30 a.m.      Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:45 a.m.      Children & Youth Sunday School Classes Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology (Greene Room) The Gospel of John (The Parlor) 11:00 a.m.      Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m.      Central Men Cook! (Tull Hall) 12:30 p.m.      Stated Session Meeting