

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

11:15AM

WAITING
WITH
JESUS

ADVENT 2025



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



Sundays at Central

Worshipping as a Family

Accessibility

Welcome Registry

Prayer

Advent

Whether you're just beginning to explore the Christian faith or a longtime believer, we're glad you're here and pray you will experience the love and grace of Jesus today. Central is for anyone who wants to learn more about Jesus Christ and grow together in real community.

Especially if this is your first time as our guest, welcome. We are thrilled you are here, and would love to connect with you. You are encouraged to fill out a connection card at one of our welcome tables in either lobby or in the Fellowship Hall, or simply scan the QR code.

Worship: 8:30am & 11:15am

Children are always welcome to participate in worship with their families.

During both services, nursery care is available for families with children ages 8 weeks through 3 years. The nursery entrance is on the first floor.

A nursing mother's room is located on the first floor off of the Fellowship Hall.

For kids ages 3 through kindergarten, we offer "children's worship" during the sermon. After worshipping with their family during the first part of the service, kids ages 3 through kindergarten will be invited to join our leaders at the front of the sanctuary. After the sermon, the kids return to the sanctuary to meet their parents.

Large print bulletins are available from our ushers. Amplification devices are also available from the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.

Located in each pew is a "Welcome Registry." We encourage you to please use this to let us know you worshiped at Central today. After putting your name down, please pass the book down your pew.

At Central, we believe in the power of prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer requests using the cards located in the pew, or online at centralpres.com/prayer. You can also email your prayer requests to prayer@centralpres.com. If you would like to pray with someone today, please visit the prayer room after either service.

The colors at the front of the church are now purple, the color of royalty that marks the season of Advent. Advent means "coming," for in this season we remember Jesus' first coming and on that basis look forward with confident faith to his coming again. In Advent, we remember how God fulfilled his promises to send our Savior to his people Israel waiting for the Messiah to come. And we learn to walk with God now with patience and hope as we wait for God to fulfill all of his promises to us in Jesus' second coming.

Away in a Manger
 Chancel Ringers
 Jennifer Mazzoni, flute

Murray/Kirkpatrick
 Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from Luke 2:11, 14

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Second Adam and image of God,
the true God become true man.

Give glory to God in the highest through Jesus,
 who is Christ the Lord!

Hallelujah, Amen!

God Calls Us To Worship

God gathers us before
 his heavenly throne for
 a special time to renew
 our relationship with
 him together.

Angels From the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth.
 2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sin - ners, wrung with true re - pen - tance, doomed for guilt to end - less pains,
 4. Though an in - fant now we view him, he shall fill his fath - er's throne.

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 jus - tice now re - vokes the sen - tence, mer - cy calls you; break your chains.
 Gath - er all the na - tions to him; ev - ery knee shall then bow down:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King.

We Praise God

We respond to God's
 call by honoring his
 majesty and goodness
 in song.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816
 Tune: REGENT SQUARE; Henry T. Smart, 1866

We Pray For God To Help Us Worship

We ask the Lord to work
in us by his Holy Spirit
to give us the desire and
ability to respond to him
in worship.

We Confess Our Sin

Together as the people
of God, we acknowledge
honestly to God what
is wrong and broken
in us and ask for
his forgiveness and
transforming grace.

Christ is coming!

He is coming indeed,

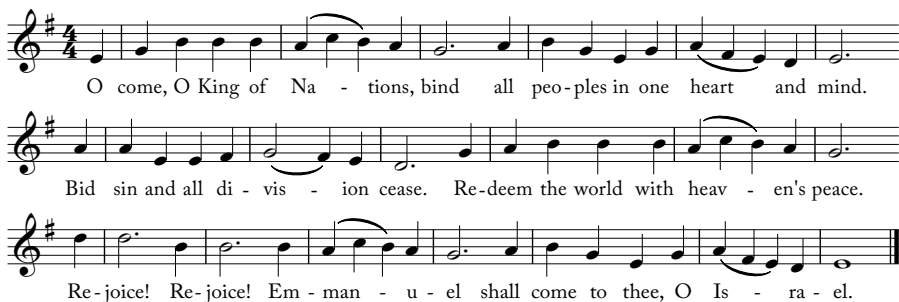
and all the earth will see the salvation of our God!

Seated

Lighting the Advent candle this morning are Austin & Sue Winkleman.

from Ezekiel 34:11, 22-24

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. . . I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them.



O come, O King of Na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one heart and mind.

Bid sin and all di - vis - ion cease. Re - deem the world with heav - en's peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Latin Hymn, tr. J. M. Neale, 1851
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL; Plainsong, 15th C

Our help is in the name of the Lord, our joy.
Let us confess our sin and sorrow to him.

Messiah, you have come as the promised righteous ruler from David
to help us wait in hope and holiness as you bring true justice to the world.

**But we often live without patient hope by resisting your rule,
disobeying your law, and treating others unjustly.**

You have come as the promised refiner
to help us wait in hope and repentance as you purify your people.

**But we often live without patient hope by refusing to repent
and rebelling with impure and shameful thoughts, words, and deeds.**

You have come as the promised king
to help us wait in hope and joy as you rejoice over us with glad songs of delight.

**But we often live without patient hope by forgetting your love
and pursuing our deepest joy in created things rather than you.**

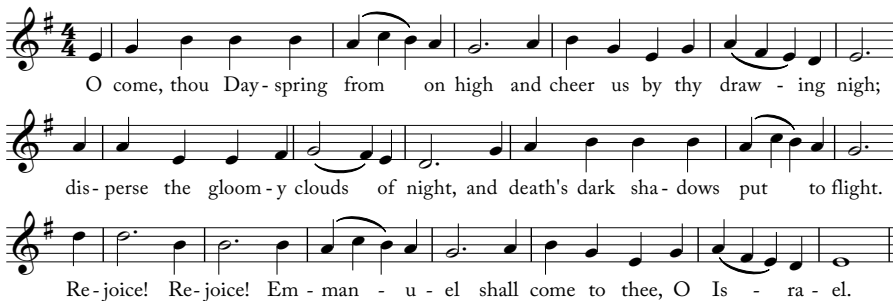
You have come as the promised shepherd
to help us wait in hope and peace as you lead us by your strength
to dwell securely with you.

**But we often live without patient hope by rejecting your peace
and striving for our own honor and protection with anxious fear.**

Messiah, have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Gracious Father, please lead our faltering, wayward hearts back to you. By your
Spirit's power, help us remember your faithfulness, wait with hope, and walk in your
holiness, joy, and peace as we follow Jesus, our promised Shepherd and King. Amen.



O come, thou Day-spring from on high and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

God Declares Our Forgiveness

God responds joyfully to our confession by declaring his forgiveness and the security of his grace and delight in us as his beloved daughters and sons.

Standing (if able)

from Hebrews 12:2; Romans 5:1-2

Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Hallelujah, Amen!

We Praise God

Having been assured of God's favor, we offer thanks and praise for salvation from sin and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth re - ceive her King.
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em - ploy
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground.
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 He comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,
 the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love,

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Seated

*Children ages 3 - kindergarten are invited to Children's Worship
and will return during the offering.*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

pew Bible page 790

This is God's good news of great joy.
Glory to God in the highest!

Luke 2:10, 14

"Waiting for Jesus' Song" – Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

**God Instructs Us In
Scripture Reading**

God speaks to us
through the Bible to
instruct, encourage,
correct, comfort, and
equip us to know, love,
and follow him.

We respond to God by
affirming our trust in his
word.

**God Instructs Us
In Preaching**

God speaks to us to
explain what his word
means and how to
respond to him with
loving obedience in our
daily lives.

We Offer Ourselves in Gifts and Song

We respond to God's word by offering ourselves to God with renewed love and commitment both in song and in gifts of money to support God's mission in the world.

Give electronically at centralpres.com/giving, or by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King!"
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! For glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing.
when the new heav'n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund Sears, 1849
Tune: CAROL; Richard Willis, 1850

Standing (if able)

(prayers for the church and the world)

**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.**

Seated

Central welcomes all Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not ready to receive communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the prayers below.

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of new belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared believe, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Is your child interested in receiving communion for the first time? Please email family@centralpres.com for more information.

We Pray For The Church And The World

We respond to God's word by asking him to transform our lives, our communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus with the Lord's Prayer as a summary prayer for the mission of God's kingdom.

God Feeds Us at His Table

We celebrate Jesus' triumph over sin, Satan, and death through his death and resurrection by eating and drinking symbols of Jesus' body and blood. The Holy Spirit works through this act to nourish us by the life of Jesus, to unite us with God and with one another in friendship, and to give us a foretaste and promise of Jesus' return to make all things new.

Please hold the elements until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together as directed by the pastor. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Therefore, with the whole company of heaven and the whole church on earth, we give you thanks for your great glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(prayer of thanks & words of institution)

Now let us celebrate the feast of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

We Praise God

Let All Mortal Flesh



1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and trem-bling stand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way,
4. At his feet the six wing-ed ser-aph, cher-u-bim with sleep-less eye,



Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand,
Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, in the bo-dy and the blood.
as the Light of light de-scen-deth from the realm of end-less day,
veil their fac-es to his pre-sence, as with cease-less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth, our full hom-age to de-mand.
He will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.
that the pow'rs of hell may van-ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.
"Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: *Liturgy of St. James*; para. Gerard Moultrie, 1864
Tune: PICARDY; French carol, 17th C.

And all God's people said...

Hallelujah! Amen.

Advent Doxology

Praise the Lord, the com - ing King. All his saints, his glo - ry sing.

Praise God all you heav'n - ly host, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Text: Anonymous
Tune: GLORIA; Traditional French carol;
arr. E. Barnes, 1937

**God Blesses Us
And Sends Us Out**

God sends us out into
the world with his
blessing to live with him
and serve the mission of
his kingdom.

Postlude

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mike Farley

Musicians: Bridget Boyle, *piano*; Patrick Crecelius, *guitar*; Julia Clemens, *bass*;
Robert Clemens, *percussion*; Susan Crecelius, *vocals*.

Connect, Grow, Serve

At Central, we seek the transformation of our lives, communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God. This vision becomes more and more a reality when we **connect**, **grow**, and **serve**. Below are a few opportunities coming up for you to belong to God's mission and his work at and through Central.

Three Christmas Eve Services

We look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas Eve this year! We will have three services this year on Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24:

4:30pm: Family Worship and Children's Pageant

7:00pm: Traditional Candlelight Worship

9:00pm: Traditional Candlelight Worship

Find Weekly Encouragement With Us on Social Media

We are increasingly active on various social media platforms: Facebook, X, and Instagram. Each week we post a range of Biblical encouragement, sermon videos, information about upcoming events, and more. It's a great way to find some mid-week nourishment and to stay connected with us. You can follow us at the following handles:

Facebook: @Central Presbyterian Church

X: @CPCStL

Instagram: @CPCSTL

Year-End Generosity

December is a vitally important month for us financially. As you may have heard, we have a December goal this year of \$1.35 million. Reaching this goal will allow us to finish the year on budget and will put us in great position to start 2026 off strong. It is a big goal, and we will need all of us to get there. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might partner with us in a special way this month. Visit www.centralpres.com/giving to learn more or to make a gift. Thank you!

If you would like more information about these or other upcoming opportunities, please scan the QR code to the right, email us at communications@centralpres.com, or call the church office at 314-727-2777.

CONNECT

GROW

SERVE

