

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 22, 2023

6:30PM



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



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.

Worshiping as a Family

Children are always welcome to participate in worship with their families. A nursing mother's room is located on the first floor off of the Fellowship Hall.

Accessibility

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

Welcome Registry

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.

Prayer

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth

W. Oquin

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

God Calls Us To
Worship

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

We Praise God

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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
 2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed. With - out our aid he
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise. Ap - proach with joy his
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good. His mer - cy is for -
 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heav'n and

cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise forth
 did us make. We are his folk; he doth us
 courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name al -
 ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm - ly
 earth a - dore, from earth and from the an - gel

tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: Psalm 100; W. Kethe and *Scottish Psalter*, 1565
 Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH; Louis Bourgeois, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

God of grace,
 you have given us minds to know you,
 hearts to love you,
 and voices to sing your praise.

**Accept our thanks for all that you have done for us,
 and fill us with your Spirit,
 that we may celebrate your glory
 and worship you in spirit and in truth;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Colossians 1:15-17

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Philippians 2:6-11

Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ephesians 1:7-14

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

**We Give Thanks
for God and the
Gospel**

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

Apostles' Creed

* "hell" here means the place or state of the dead, not a place or state of punishment. The creed affirms that Jesus experienced the full reality of human death as his soul was severed from his dead body until his resurrection restored the full unity of his person. ** "catholic" here means universal, not Roman Catholic.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.***

**The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.
From there he shall come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,**
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

(Prayers of thanks for God and the gospel. Gather in small groups.)

For the Beauty of the Earth

Choir

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our grateful hymn of praise.

Words by Folliott S. Pierpoint; Music by Conrad Kocher; arr. Eric Nelson

We Give Thanks
for Personal
Blessings, Family,
and Friends

Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

**On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

**They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
**They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.
**The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.**
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
**You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.**
The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
**The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.**
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
**The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.**

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely given to us:

For the beauty and wonder of your creation in earth and sky and sea,
for the wonder of your creatures, large and small,

We thank you, Lord.

For our homes and for daily food and drink,
for our families and friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think and hearts to love,
for hands to serve and feet to move,

We thank you, Lord.

For work to do and health and strength to work,
for Sabbath and rest and the joy of play,

We thank you, Lord.

For accomplishments that satisfy and delight us
for disappointments and failures that lead us to depend on you above all,

We thank you, Lord.

For preserving us in temptation and danger,
for healing and deliverance from sickness,

We thank you, Lord.

For light and truth in confusion,
for guidance and wisdom in doubt,

We thank you, Lord.

For comfort and hope in sorrow,
for patience in suffering and faithfulness in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For every good gift that shows us your power and glory,
for from you and through you and to you are all things,
**To you be all praise and glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen**

(Prayers of thanks for God's personal blessings in our lives and in the lives of family and friends. Gather in small groups.)

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

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.

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voi - ces,
2. O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God, the Fa - ther now be giv - en,
who won - drous things has done, in whom the world re - joic - es.
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,
Who, from our moth - er's arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore.
with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth
Tune: NUN DANKET; Johann Crüger, 1647

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!**

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

**God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

Our Father,
we thank you that you have made us your family,
adopted by grace and heirs of an eternal inheritance.
We thank you that you have made us the body of Christ,
united by a common faith and his resurrection life.
We thank you that you have made us the temple of your Holy Spirit,
graced with your gifts and filled with your power to fulfill your loving mission.
We thank you that you have made us a kingdom of priests and a holy nation,
calling us out of darkness into your light,
uniting people from every tribe, nation, and language,
to proclaim your excellency in word and deed,
to love you and our neighbors with your abundant grace and love.
Father, we thank you.

Our heavenly High Priest,
we thank you for the blessings you have brought to humanity
through your church throughout the world.
We thank you for the means of grace,
for faithful teaching and preaching of your word,
for the grace of your sacraments,
for the gift of prayer,
for the fellowship and love of the communion of saints
in Christ our cornerstone.
Christ, we thank you.

Our Creator God,
we thank you that your Spirit is at work in your whole creation,
granting common grace to sustain the world.
Even when the world resists and rejects you,
we thank you that your image in every person bears witness
that you have made us for yourself and placed eternity in our hearts
to make us restless until we find our rest in you.
We thank you that you are the Creator who gives life to the world,
the Truth who reveals truth and guides toward wisdom,
the Righteous One who sustains goodness and restrains evil,
the Glorious One who inspires and preserves beauty.
Holy Spirit, we thank you.

Our conquering Redeemer King,
we thank you for the hope of glory,
for your servants who have departed from this life in faith
and for the memory and example of all that was true and good in their lives.
We thank you that we are numbered with them
in the great company of the redeemed through Jesus Christ our Lord.
We thank you for the certain hope that Christ will return
to resurrect your people and this broken world into immortal glory,
wiping away every tear, defeating the curse of sin and death,
and making all things new.

(Prayers for the ministry of Central Presbyterian Church.)

**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.**

May the Peoples Praise You



1. You have called us out of dark-est night in - to your glor-ious light
2. May our ev - ery breath re - tell the grace that broke in - to our strife
3. All the earth is yours and all with - in, each har - vest is your own,
4. May the seeds of mer - cy grow in us for those who have not heard.
5. This our ho - ly priv - 'lege to de - clare your prais - es and your name.



that we may sing the won - ders of the ris - en Christ. *(to verse 2)*
 with bound - less love and deep - est joy, with end - less life. *(to chorus)*
 and from your hand we give to you to make Christ known. *(to verse 4)*
 May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread your word. *(to chorus)*
 To ev - ery na - tion, tribe and tongue your church pro - claim: *(to chorus)*



Chorus
 May the peo - ples praise you, let the na - tions be glad! All your



bles - ing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Je - sus.



Bridge
 Ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord Al - migh - ty.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, is the Lord Al migh - ty.



Wor - thy, wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain.
 All cre - a - tion praise your glo - ri - ous name.

Words and Music by Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend,
 Ed Cash, and David Zimmer Copyright © 2016 Getty Music Publishing

And all God's people said...
Hallelujah! Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly hosts; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost. A - men, A - men, A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

Postlude on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

S. Karg-Elert/F. Bock

**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.

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mike Farley and Rev. Cole Lescher
Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano* and *organ*

Postlude

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.

Tree Lighting and Advent Workshop

Find a friend or neighbor and come join us on Wednesday, November 29th for our annual Tree Lighting and Advent Workshop! This is a special event in the life of our church, and a great way to kick off the Christmas season. And of course, it will include a great dinner in Fellowship Hall! Schedule for the evening is as follows:

4:00 pm – “Decking the Halls”: a chance to help put up Christmas decorations all around campus

4:30 pm – Advent Workshop: kids crafts and activities at various creative stations

5:30 pm – Dinner: free and delicious!

6:30 pm – Tree Lighting and Caroling

Christmas Concert

Year after year, Central's Christmas Concert is a wonderful way to be inspired by the awe and wonder of Christmas. We invite you and your friends to join us here at Central on Friday evening, December 15th. The concert begins at 7:30 pm, but we advise arriving early as this event is always at maximum capacity. Come join us and be blessed by this spectacular event!

Christmas Eve Schedule

Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24th. There will be 3 evening services, as well as a Sunday morning service. Our schedule is as follows:

10:00 am – Lessons and Carols

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

7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service

9:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service

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

