

ORDER OF WORSHIP
April 20, 2025
First Sunday of Easter

9:00 &
11:00AM



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.

Easter at Central

Worship: 9am & 11am

Worship with us next Sunday

Services at 8:30am & 11:15am

Sunday School (all ages): 10am

Worshiping as a Family

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

During the 9am service, nursery care is available for families with children ages 8 weeks through 3 years. The nursery entrance is on the first floor. There is no Children's Worship today; it will resume next week. 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.

Easter

The colors in the church are white and gold to mark the season of Easter. During Easter, we focus on celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead as the foundation of God's victory over sin, suffering, and death. The immortal life of the risen King is the source of salvation that gives us power for enduring life's struggle in the present and historically-grounded hope for life beyond death in God's eternal kingdom when heaven and earth become one and he makes all things new.

Chancel Choir

Tune: LYNHAM; Thomas Jarman, c. 1803

**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.

**God Calls Us To
Confess Our Sin**

**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 risen!

He is risen indeed!

He died for us that we might live for him.

Seated

from John 11:25; James 4:8, 10

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in him, though he die, yet shall he live. Therefore, draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Eternal Father, you have raised Jesus from the dead
and crowned him the Lord of life.

But we confess that we often live as if Jesus were dead.

In trials we doubt that you will sustain us,

and so we lose touch with the joy and power

of Jesus' resurrection life in us,

giving us strength to endure today

and bright hope in the weight of glory to come.

We are prone to seek our purpose and hope

in our work, our wealth, and our strength.

And we forget that you have made us for so much more,

for eternal glory with you in a world made new

by Jesus' resurrection life and healing power.

Lord, have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Living Lord, open our eyes to the light of your life and truth. Open our hearts to trust in your conquering love and life that lasts eternally. Fix our eyes and our hope firmly on Jesus, who has swallowed up death's sting, and lives that death may die. Amen.

Standing (if able)

from 2 Timothy 1:9-10

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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!

Praise the Savior, Now and Ever



1. Praise the Sav - ior now and ev - er; praise him, all be - neath the skies.
2. Man's work fail - eth, Christ's a - vail - eth; he is all our right - eous - ness.
3. Sin's bonds sev - ered, we're de - liv - ered; Christ has bruised the ser - pent's head.
4. For his fav - or, praise for - ev - er un - to God the Fa - ther sing.



Pros - trate ly - ing, suff - 'ring, dy - ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
He, our Sav - ior, has for - ev - er set us free from dire dis - tress.
Death no lon - ger is the stron - ger; hell it - self is cap - tive led.
Praise the Sav - ior, praise him ev - er, Son of God, our Lord and King.



Vict - 'ry gain - ing, life ob - tain - ing, now in glo - ry he doth rise.
Thro' his mer - it we in - her - it light and peace and hap - pi - ness.
Christ has ris - en from death's pri - son, o'er the tomb he light has shed.
Praise the Spir - it; thro' Christ's mer - it he doth us sal - va - tion bring.



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.

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.

**We Confess Our
Faith In God**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all ages,
God from God, light from light, true God from true God,
begotten not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

And we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

* "catholic" here means
universal, not Roman
Catholic.

Seated

Luke 24:1-12

Pew Bible page 884-885

**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.

This is the living and abiding word of God.
Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:23; John 6:68

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

Alleluia

Chancel Choir

Alleluia. Amen.

Randall Thompson

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.

"Right Side Up Triumph" - Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives. What com-fort this sweet
2. He lives tri - um - phant from the grave. He lives e - ter - nal -
3. He lives to grant me rich sup - ply. He lives to guide me
4. He lives to si - lence all my fears. He lives to wipe a -
5. He lives and grants me dai - ly breath. He lives, and I shall

sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who once was
ly to save. He lives all - glor - ious in the
with his eye. He lives to com - fort me when
way my tears. He lives to calm my trou - bled
con - quer death. He lives my man - sion to pre -

dead. He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head.
sky. He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
faint. He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
heart. He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
pare. He lives to bring me safe - ly there.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775
Tune: DUKE STREET; John W. Hatton, 1793

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.

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

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.

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.

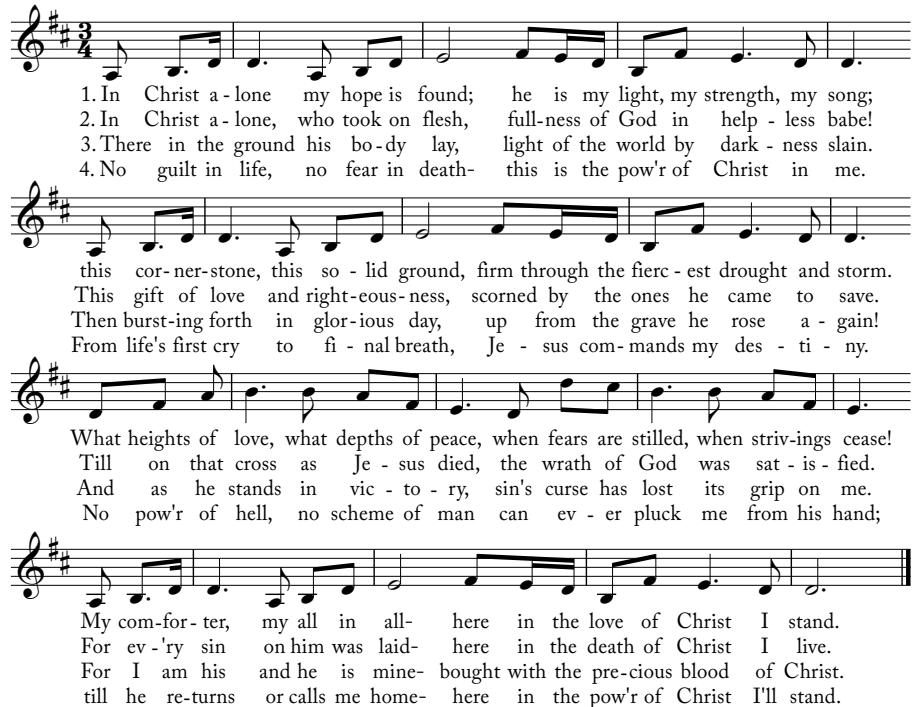
(prayer of thanks and words of institution)

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

In Christ Alone



1. In Christ a-lone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
2. In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less babe!
3. There in the ground his bo-dy lay, light of the world by dark-ness slain.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death- this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

this cor-ner-stone, this so-lid ground, firm through the fierc-est drought and storm.
This gift of love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Then burst-ing forth in glor-ious day, up from the grave he rose a-gain!
From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-mands my des-ti-ny.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease!
Till on that cross as Je-sus died, the wrath of God was sat-is-fied.
And as he stands in vic-to-ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev-er pluck me from his hand;

My com-for-ter, my all in all- here in the love of Christ I stand.
For ev-'ry sin on him was laid- here in the death of Christ I live.
For I am his and he is mine- bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
till he re-turms or calls me home- here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text and tune: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
© 2001 Thankyou Music

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*

We invite you to sing along – music can be found in the Hymnal at #37

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,

And he shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Text: Rev. 19:6; 11:15; 19:16

Tune: G.F. Händel

And all God's people said...

Hallelujah! Amen.

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.

Toccata from *Symphony for Organ No. 5*

C.M. Widor

Postlude

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mike Farley

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano and organ*; Cathy Benton, *piano and organ*.

Central Brass Ensemble: Allen Stith (director), Pat Stark, Peter Baartman, *trumpet*; Tim Arrington, *horn*; Paul Arrington, Susan Griesedieck, *trombone/euphonium*; Richard Johnston, Austin Winkleman, *tuba*.

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.

Find Community Here

Welcome to Central! We are so thankful that you have joined us for Easter, and we pray that it has been an encouraging experience for you. If you are visiting for the first time today, or for the first time in a while, we hope you will consider connecting with us again in the days ahead. Life can be hard, but it can be easier – and even joyful – when you are part of a church community. We have a wide range of ways to connect here, no matter your age or stage of life. Please send us a note at info@centralpres.com and we can help you find a place that is a good fit for you!

Is It Really True?

As we celebrate the historical account of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, perhaps you are here today and wondering, "Is it really true?" If that is you, or if you know someone who is wrestling with questions like that, we have a special class starting this Wednesday evening where hard questions are welcomed and encouraged. Join us here at Central for a free dinner at 5 pm, followed by a casual conversation at 6 pm where you can ask questions, share concerns, and seek to find the truth. Feel free to reach out to info@centralpres.com for more information.

Student Fellowship

Are you a middle school or high school student? Growing up is so much fun, but can also be challenging. You are not alone! At Central, we have a Student Ministry that helps people just like you to connect with other students and to learn together about this amazing God who loves us so much. Life is better together, especially with other students who share your faith! Come check us out on Wednesday night. Free dinner at 5 pm, followed by our Student Ministry activities at 6 pm. Feel free to reach out to info@centralpres.com for more information.

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

