



# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

December 17, 2023, 9:15 AM  
Central Christian Church

## About our service:

We want worship to be comfortable for you. Feel free to bring your **coffee** with you into the worship area.

You are welcome to leave an **offering** with us if you are motivated. Simply deposit your offering in the box on the south wall of the worship area or follow prompts to text-to-give or to give online.

## MEDITATION TABLE:

### STONES & VASE

Use the stones as a physical representation of your burden. Put the stones in the vase and leave the burden with God.

### CANDLE

Light a candle for any praise or prayer concerns you have.

### COMFORT CROSS

Feel free to pick up a cross and take it with you as a reminder that Jesus loves you unconditionally. His comfort, care, and transformative power is at work for you, in you, and through you today and always. Receive it. Praise God and share His never-ending love with others.

### SCRIPTURE CARDS

Feel free to read and take one of the Scripture cards with you. You are encouraged to place it where you will see it throughout your week as a reminder of God's message for you.

### PRAYER WALL

Stop by our prayer wall and leave a prayer for others to offer with you or to pray for those already posted.



Wifi= CCCGuest  
No password  
needed.

**Handel's "Messiah"**  
**Sing Along**  
December 17th, 3 PM

Performed by the Decatur Festival Chorus, comprised of a consortium of local church choirs and community members, members of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Prof. Nate Widelitz

Bring your own "Messiah" score and sing along, or just enjoy a memorable afternoon of beautiful music!  
This is a free event.

Central Christian Church  
650 W. William St., Decatur, IL

## Sunday School News for Families

There will be regular Sunday School classes for our children and youth on December 17. We will not have Sunday School on December 24 and December 31. We will have activities available for children whose families attend the 9:15 worship service on those Sundays. Regular Sunday School classes will resume on January 7.

## New Year's Eve concert

Blue Note Quintet will be playing on New Year's Eve at Central Christian Church from 7 pm until 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

This five piece blues band performs all around the Springfield area and they are looking forward to playing a variety of music to celebrate the holidays. Come enjoy the music!



## Are you interested in joining Central?

The only thing required to be a member of Central Christian is having faith in Jesus Christ. If you are moved during the service to confess your faith, or transfer your membership to Central, simply come up to the minister at the communion table **during the communion time**. If you wish to talk with a minister more about membership, simply let Pastor Michael or Pastor Vicky know after worship.

**Mark 1:1-5 (NRSVUE)**

Lighting of Advent Candle

Leader: There is joy in the world when Christ comes.

**People: Though we have fallen short, we are forgiven in him.**

Leader: There is joy in the world when Christ comes.

**People: When we share ourselves with God, honestly and humbly, we receive mercy.**

Leader: There is joy in the world when Christ comes.

**People: Wherever we have been, Jesus invites us to journey new with him today.**

Leader: "John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**People: And the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized in the Jordan, confessing their sins."**

(Light the third candle)

Leader: We light this third candle, the candle of joy, for the joy we experience through the forgiveness, grace and mercy of Jesus the Christ.

**People: May we be born anew through his gift of redemption and second chances.**

**All: Thanks be to God for the joy we have in Christ.**

**Responsive Reading**

Leader: We love our Christmas traditions, but the coming Jesus Christ asks us to change.

**People: May we learn to think in ways that unite us with the mind of God.**

Leader: We love decorating our homes and our church, but the coming Jesus Christ asks us to examine our hearts and our souls.

**People: May we learn to make room in our hearts for the love of God.**

Leader: We love giving gifts to another at Christmas, but the coming Jesus Christ asks us to receive his gift of forgiveness.

**People: May we learn to share with others as generously as God has shared with us.**

**Serving Today**

Elder - Dick Cain

Deacon - Louis & Laura Kappler

Greeter - Jodi Van Uytven

Liturgist - Cheryl Zollinger

Snacks - Angie Horvath

**Serving Next Sunday, 12/24**

Elder - Jeannie Backes

Deacon - Angie & Ron Ingram

Greeter - Cheryl Zollinger

Liturgist - Travis Wilcoxen

Snacks - Laura Kappler