



WELCOME TO CENTRAL
Getting Our House in Order

APRIL 21, 2024

Whether you are sharing worship with us in our historic sanctuary or watching online, we hope you feel the vitality of our people, our ministry and our focus on the present. If you are looking for a place to put your faith into action or for a community to provide support and inspiration, we are looking for you. Central is open and affirming of all people. If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Connect card in the pews and drop it in the offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As we gather in this space to worship, let us listen for God's voice by silencing our cell phones and using the music to bring us into a time of reflection and prayer.

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit

We Gather in God's Presence

PRELUDE

Golden Breaks the Dawn (Chinese tune *Le P'ing*)

Paul Damico-Carper, erhu
Jennifer Anderson, piano

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from George Herbert's *Antiphon I*

Peter Knapp

One: To God above, let all the world in every corner sing!

All: **The heavens are not too high, God's praise may there fly.**

One: The earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow.

All: **To God with us, let all the world in every corner sing!**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, the heavens proclaim your glory, and the earth proclaim your good work. May our hearts and minds be drawn to your goodness throughout creation, signs of your everlasting care and steadfast faithfulness. We are your creatures—help us therefore to honor all creation. Amen.

✦ HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Hymn #32

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

One: The peace of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you all.

All: And, also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: In the sure hope of forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God.

All: God of all life, we confess to you that our relationships are not right. We are alienated from you, one another, and all of creation. We have neglected the flourishing of all life, dishonoring the inherent value of the earth itself. We have been eager to welcome comfort and convenience, forgetting that the earth does not exist solely for our wants and needs. In your mercy, forgive us, and lead us on the narrow path that leads to life—care of one another, care of ourselves, and care of the earth, the home you have always intended for us. In Jesus' name, we pray.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Jesus is the firstborn of the new creation, the giver of life, the beginning and the end. Because Jesus came to restore all things for good, we can proclaim with the confidence of the children of God:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We Listen for God's Voice

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Jennifer Anderson

Please see announcements for details on today's ministry programs. If you are new to Central, please come with your child in order to meet our staff and provide emergency contact information.

SENDING SONG

Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, your words are life and light. Open our hearts that we might hear, receive, and live with love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 24:4-13

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O *God of Life* (by Brian Schroeder)

Paul Damico-Carper
Central Choir

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 55:10–13

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Getting Our House in Order

We Respond to God's Gifts

✦ **HYMN**

Touch the Earth Lightly

Hymn #713

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

While Jesus used the familiar language of father ("abba" in Aramaic), you may choose to substitute language that feels more prayerful to you, such as "mother," "parent," or "friend."

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

You are invited to place offering gifts and completed pew cards in the plates as ushers pass them. You may also give online at www.centralforgood.org/give or submit to the office during normal office hours.

OFFERTORY

Sing Out Earth and Skies (by Marty Haugen)

Paul Damico-Carper
Central Choir

✦ **SONG OF DEDICATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Hymn #240, refrain

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, you give us all we need. May we steward these gifts we return in order to show your love, mercy, and justice to the world. Amen.

We Are Sent Into God's World

✦ HYMN

God of the Sparrow

Hymn #22

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION - Adapted from Jeremiah 29

One: We have gathered together in this sacred place to worship God, be formed as disciples of Jesus, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. God is now sending us out to bless the world.

All: **Therefore we will seek the good of the city where God has called us. We will pray for it, open our doors with compassion, serve our neighbors, and be attentive to God's presence; for in its good we will find our own.**

One: God is out there.

All: **Let us go forth!**

POSTLUDE

Paul Damico-Carper

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom (tune *Holy Manna*, text by Adam M. L. Tice)

IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY TODAY

CHILDREN AGE BIRTH – 6: Our beautiful nursery is staffed by professional caregivers and full of fun toys and good friends. Childcare is available from 9:30–11:30 a.m. today.

GRADES K – 8: Following the Time for Children, children grades K–8 are invited to go upstairs for a morning of engaging, meaningful learning!

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL: Lifeboats and Compass meet after church in the Youth Room until 1:30 p.m.

If you are new to Central, or have questions about ministry for those under 18, we invite you to reach out to Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org.

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

You won't want to miss worship led by our amazing youth! From the music to the message, our 6th–12th graders will share their thoughts and learnings on Ecclesiastes 3: 1–8: "For everything, there is a time." Make sure to come and support our young people and hear God's voice anew in the words of our teens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

View our church calendar and share upcoming events at www.centraforgood.org/calendar.

New Member Class Today!

Interested in membership at Central? Join us in the Oval Room after worship today to explore what it means to be Presbyterian, how you can connect and serve, and why membership matters. Connect with Pastor Chris to register or ask questions.

Our Team Is Growing!

Between the growing ministries of Central and the addition of Faithful Hospitality, our staff is shifting and growing to match our ministry. We're looking for an Office and Communications Manager to be in the office 20 hours/week, and another custodian to help us with additional facility needs each week.

Please share these opportunities in your networks! Find out more at centraforgood.org/join-our-team.

Adult Faith Formation, May 5

As we conclude our year-long series on *What the Bible Does(n't) Say*, we end with **queer identity** and the Bible. For people who have been routinely excluded, made invisible, or worse, is there room in the Bible for people who don't conform to a heterosexual gender binary (hint: there is!). Where do we find these entry points into God's expansive identity, and what do we do with those passages that have

been weaponized to catastrophic ends? Join us after worship May 5 for this conversation!

We Are a Beacon Congregation

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is:

- Policy advocacy for affordable housing
- Building new affordable housing
- Providing supportive services for residents

"Everyone deserves a Home."

Interfaith Action

This morning, you may see clients of Faithful Hospitality, the new initiative through Interfaith Action that we're proud to host here at Central. This program serves migrant families by providing wraparound services from healthcare to employment. Welcome, Interfaith Action!

If you would like to get involved, we are currently accepting donations of composition notebooks (for participants taking English classes) small, toddler-sized backpacks, and size 5 diapers (Pampers-brand, please). Please drop donations on Sundays in the marked bin the Fellowship Room, marked "IFA donations," or contact Anna in the office to arrange a drop-off time.

Learn more at www.centraforgood.org/faithful-hospitality.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISION AND VALUES

We put our faith into action
by nurturing spiritual growth and
reflecting the call of God to serve
our neighbor.

We transform our communities
by promoting social justice and
engaging others in ministries that
drive change.

We invite everyone to the table
sharing fellowship, worship, meals,
music, and works as one body.

WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG



STAY CONNECTED!



www.centralforgood.org



facebook.com/centralforgood



instagram.com/centralforgood



www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



www.centralforgood.org/volunteer

GIVING

Be it regular giving, special offerings, or a donation drive, Central offers a variety of options to fit your needs.



Drop in the Offering Plate
Each Sunday during worship



Mail a Check
500 Cedar St
St. Paul, MN 55101



Deliver In Person
Bring to office
(M-Th 9am-3:30pm)



Donate Online
www.centralforgood.org/give



Text Your Gift
Text givecentral to 73256
to give via credit card



Bank Account Transfer
Set up one time or recurring

Have Questions?
Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100
or email office@centralforgood.org.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Central is a caring community of faith that includes members, friends, and visitors. We give thought to those who are rarely or currently not able to attend worship here. **Today, we keep in our prayers Russell Lundeen.**

CHILDREN

Children are a beloved part of our community and always welcome in the sanctuary with you. At the back of the room are activity bags and books for them to enjoy during their time in worship. Infants through age 6 are also invited to spend the worship hour in our nursery on the upper level, playing and learning together. Changing tables are available in our restrooms with diapering supplies available in the nursery.

FLOWERS

If you would like to bring flowers to place on the chancel for worship in recognition of a special moment or event, contact the office.

PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA

You are in a space where live stream videography and photography will occur. To review our photography and media use policy, go to www.centralforgood.org/photography.

LICENSE

The music in today's bulletin is reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net A-71257.

ACCESSIBILITY



Large print worship bulletins and hymns are available from the ushers or in back of the sanctuary.



The sanctuary is T-coil enabled for those with the hearing aid technology. Sound amplification devices are also available from ushers.



Reserved accessible parking and a wheelchair ramp are available in the MPR lot off 9th Street East. Accessible restrooms are in the hall by side sanctuary doors and on the lower level.

PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot, KCP lot, and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp across Cedar Street. If parking in the ramp, see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people. Broken treaties and the systematic loss of life and land led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. Our faith demands confession of the evils from which we benefit, action to support Indigenous peoples seeking justice, and lives guided by love. We keep this in our minds and hearts as we worship today. For the full statement of our commitment to action, visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/land.

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 4/21

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study (*Lounge*)
10:30 a.m. Earth Day Worship
11:30 a.m. Third Sunday Lunch
(*Dining Room*)
11:30 a.m. Chamber Ensemble
(*Choir Room*)
11:30 a.m. Recalibrating Our Spiritual GPS
(*Lounge*)
11:50 a.m. New Member Class
(*Oval Room*)
12:00 p.m. Lifeboats & Compass
(*Youth Room*)
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting
(*Dining Room*)

TUESDAY 4/23

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism Task Force
Meeting (*Zoom*)

WEDNESDAY 4/24

- 11:30 a.m. Community Lunch
(*Dining Room*)
6:00 p.m. Bell Ensemble Rehearsal
(*Choir Room*)
6:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
(*Choir Room*)
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY 4/25

- 7:00 p.m. Recalibrating Our Spiritual GPS
(*Zoom*)

SUNDAY 4/28

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study (*Lounge*)
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
(*Fellowship Hall*)
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting
(*Dining Room*)

The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen
chriscs@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Laura Nichols-Endres, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

MINISTRIES

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,
Jess Garner, Maria Stokes

Laura Walls,
Sunday Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org

MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis, Paul Damico-Carper,
Shanta Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,
Adam Van der Sluis, Alexander Woods

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader
maureens@centralforgood.org

Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager