

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Mid-Winter Sabbath: Visitors Depart

JANUARY 7, 2024





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 Mary Lou Gilstad.**

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. On the cover: An adaptation of *We Three Kings* by Micah Holdsworth.

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.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church

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

Paul Damico-Carper

We Three Kings (arr. Paul Damico-Carper)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - From Isaiah 43

Sue Hoffman

One: Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

All: **"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.**

One: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

All: **I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, as we begin a new year, open us to follow you into a new season and new possibilities. Help us to mark our lives with anticipation, believing that you are making a way forward. Impart to us visions of our lives and of the world as they should and will be, and empower us to work alongside you to create those new realities. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ HYMN

God is Calling Through the Whisper

Hymn #410

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, we come before in the presence of one another to confess our shortcomings and our failures. You give us all we need in abundance, and we constantly seek after more. You call us to rest in your provision, and we**

find ways to make ourselves busy. Help us to find the rest that you call us to. Help us to give that gift to one another in order to make a world in wholeness and at peace.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: From the beginning of all things, God had in mind to create, redeem, and sustain all things for good. Therefore, with the confidence of the children of God, we proclaim:

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, you are speaking. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice and follow your call. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Leviticus 25:1-7

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 2:1-12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "Mid-Winter Sabbath: Visitors Depart"

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

We Respond to God's Gifts

✦ HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

Hymn #150

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - From the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has revealed [Godself] as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God... is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;... that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; ...that God wishes to

teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need,... witness[ing] against and striv[ing] against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Central Choir; Paul Damico-Carper

Pilgrims and Companions (by Marty Haugen)

✠ SONG OF RESPONSE

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you are generous. As we return a portion of what you have given us, may it be used to proclaim your love in words and actions, here and everywhere. Amen.

We Are Fed by God's Love

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical)

Our Parent in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE MEAL

All are welcome to the table! Please come forward through the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Bread is available in baskets, and grape juice either in cups or by intinction (dipping). Gluten free wafers are also available when you come forward. If you would like to remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

As you receive communion, we invite you to receive a star word for reflection over the coming year.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

This Little Light of Mine (Traditional; by William Farley Smith)

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Lord, you feed us in body and spirit. Send us into the world nourished to proclaim your blessings.

We Are Sent Into God's World

✦ HYMN

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Hymn #516

✦ CHARGE & BLESSING - 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

The High Part of the Road / The Seven Stars (Traditional)

Paul Damico-Carper

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 – 5: Sunday Connection class follows the Time for Children. (Sign your child in at the back table near the Ushers. Pick up in the Orange Room upstairs at 11:30 a.m.)

GRADES 6-12: Youth will meet in the Youth Room upstairs after Time for Children.

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 jennifer@centralforgood.org.

Announcements

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

Adult Faith Formation Today

TOPIC: ECONOMIC RIGHTS

The idea of economic rights is foreign to many Americans, but the idea of rights to housing, employment, food, and other economic needs are an important part of the global landscape since the Second World War. In an age of increasing economic insecurity for people on the margins, this conversation is as important as ever.

The Bible was written thousands of years ago in largely agrarian economies, so what could it say about a modern economy in the wake of thinkers like Adam Smith, John Maynard Keynes, and John Nash? Does the Bible have anything meaningful to say about an idea as seemingly new as economic rights.

Join us TODAY (Jan. 7) at 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs Meeting Lounge for a discussion with Pastor Chris encompassing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ancient Hebrew law, and implications for policy in the modern world for the ability of people to have basic economic security.

Save the date for a further discussion with the Anti-Racism Task Force on Sunday, January 28 at 11:45 a.m. in the Upstairs Lounge. (To learn more, pick up the January newsletter.)

Undecorating Central

It was beautiful while it lasted, but now is the time to take down the holiday greenery and pack away the Christmas decorations. If you are able to help, please join us on Wed., January 10 at 12:30 p.m. Come for Wednesday Community Lunch and stay to help pack away the décor. No need to RSVP.

January Newsletter Available

A new year begins and it is time to explore new activities at Central! Pick up a hard copy of the January newsletter by the church entrances or download a digital copy on our website at www.centralforgood.org/newsletter to stay in the loop with all that is happening.

Want the newsletter delivered to your mailbox or inbox each month? Subscribe on our website or contact the church office to be added to our mailing list.

Offering Envelopes are Ready for Pickup

If you ordered a box of 2024 Central offering envelopes, they are now available for pick-up in the Friendship Room. Please contact the office if you would like to have your box of envelopes mailed, or if you have not yet ordered, but would still like to receive a box of pre-dated offering envelopes.

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 01/07

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

MONDAY 01/08

- 2:30 p.m. Beacon Leadership Team
6:00 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Meeting

TUESDAY 01/09

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Worship, Music & Arts Meeting

WEDNESDAY 01/10

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
12:30 p.m. Un-Decorating Central
1:00 p.m. Welcome & Fellowship Meeting
7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY 01/12

Youth Depart for Clearwater Snow Camp
(gone until 01/14)

SUNDAY 01/14

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Join us in worship this day as we remember the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his continued call towards Jesus' beloved community. We will install new elders and deacons and Paul Gulsvig leads the Central Choir.

The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

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ADMINISTRATION

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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,
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MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis, Paul Damico-Carper,
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Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,
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Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager