



SEASON OF LENT

Strangers and Sojourners: Collapse Into One

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

The Hospitality of Abraham by Angelos Akotantos, 14th Century

This icon depicts the story of Sarah and Abraham hosting three guests by the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18). These three strangers, who turn out to be the presence of God, announce good news about God's faithfulness to the forebears of Israel. This story has been interpreted as a call to extend radical hospitality to all strangers who are in our midst. After all, as the writer of Hebrews says, we may be "entertaining angels unawares" (Hebrews 13).



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 Sandy White.**

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:

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 Tonia Hughes Kendrick, soloist; Kenneth Vigne, piano, Lucy Hiestand, set
Take Me To the Alley (by Gregory Porter)

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from Luke 3** Margaret Cellette

One: The voice of one is crying out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

All: **Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill be made low, the crooked
shall be straight, and the rough places smooth.**

One: What then should we do?

All: **Whoever has much should be generous, and whoever is powerful should be
just so that God's love might be known.**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you are calling us to prepare our whole lives for the new life promised in your Resurrection. In this season of self-reflection and anticipation, prepare us to receive the gifts of your salvation, and extend those gifts to others through acts of radical hospitality and lovingkindness. Draw us into one community in which there is no enemy, nor stranger, but only sibling and companion.

✦ HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymn #49

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, you have made us to be a common human family in which there is no "other." And yet we confess that we live as if there is "us" and "them." We keep for ourselves what is most dear and offer to others what is left over. We dignify the humanity of those like us, and diminish the dignity of those considered different. In your mercy, forgive our failure to see the reality of our common humanity and live as if that were true. Draw us into the beloved community of your Son in which all are welcomed and loved.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Through Jesus Christ, God became one of us. God knows our struggles and shortcomings and has compassion. Because God came not to condemn but to restore, we can proclaim with the confidence of God's beloved:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We Listen for God's Voice

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen

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

ANTHEM

Tonia Hughes Kendrick, soloist; Central Choir;
Kenneth Vigne, piano, Lucy Hiestand, set

He Will Keep You (Psalm 121) (arr. Grant Wall)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE READING - Exodus 3:7-12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING - Deuteronomy 10:17-22

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Strangers and Sojourners: Collapse Into One

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

We Respond to God's Gifts

✦ HYMN

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

Hymn #52, verses 1, 3, 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

During the season of Lent, the Lord's Prayer is adapted from the First Nations Version of the New Testament, translated and edited by Native North Americans.

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day all the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. For your good road, power, and honor will never end. 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

Poor Wayfaring Stranger (by Eurydice V. Osterman)

Kenneth Vigne

✦ SONG OF DEDICATION

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Hymn#223 verse 4

✦ 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 Sent Into God's World

✦ HYMN

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Hymn #274

✦ 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

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (arr. Kenneth Vigne)

Kenneth Vigne, piano

Announcements

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

Welcome Guest Musicians

TONIA HUGHES KENDRICK is notably among Minnesota's most gifted artists, acclaimed for her transparent delivery that leaves audiences with a poignant electricity. Being ever willing to take on a challenge, and having an openness to engage in culturally diverse, what she calls "unusual" collaborations, has catapulted her career. Fusing her rich gospel background with the folk singing of Larry Long or the world-class trumpeting of Charles Lazarus with the Minnesota Orchestra or with a Flamenco at The Lab Theater defies categorization and is a further testament of her genre-bending talent.

With five CD recordings under her belt, Tonia is an unstoppable musical force challenging audiences from churches to theaters to concert halls to stretch beyond perceived musical limitations and embrace the beauty of coming together: one heart at a time, one note at a time.

KENNETH VIGNE is an organist and composer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and currently serves as the Associate Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Kenneth passionately advocates for diversity and representation in the arts, believing that all find spirituality in music should be able to find it in songs that they consider their own. He is a gifted improviser on both piano and

organ and uses his gifts to find connections with local artists. He has collaborated with spoken word artists, gospel singers, dancers, poets, playwrights, storytellers, choreographers, among others to create multidisciplinary works that connect communities and artforms together. He challenges himself to say "yes" to the creative nudging of the Holy Spirit. Kenneth lives with his wife and two children in Saint Louis Park.

Worship in the Season of Lent

Our Lenten sermon series between February 18 - March 26 will focus on *Strangers and Sojourners*. We will examine portraits of wandering, searching, hospitality, and home throughout the Bible, examining our call as a congregation to support those who search and offering radical hospitality in our lives and our community.

Call to Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held in-person on Sunday, March 3 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

The annual meeting may discuss corporation business, hearing reports of Session along with plans for the coming year, and receiving the annual report.

The annual report will soon be available for review. You can download it from Central's

website at www.centralforgood.org/annual-report. Hard copies will be available for pickup from the Central office or you may request that a copy be mailed to you by calling the office at (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.

An Update from Central Closet

A big THANK YOU to those who have and are donating clothing for Central's Closet. The heavy warm coats, heavy sweat shirts, and pull on pants, white socks, warm mittens/gloves and hats have been especially needed items. Many of you bought these items new and what a gift they are! We also appreciated Laura Hutton's list of needed items, Women of Central's items from the Giving Tree, the handmade hats and mittens and all the gently used clothing you have so willingly contributed.

The need continues for donated items - especially larger sizes. Place donated items on one of the white tables in the back of the Dining Room. Know that in giving you are warming hearts AND bodies!

Free and Easy Parking at Central

Free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot (off 9th Street), KCP lot (at intersection of 9th and Minnesota St), and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp (across Cedar Street). If parking in the ramp, please see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

If you are a regular worshipper at Center, we request that you park in the KCP or World Trade Center ramp to keep our most adjacent and accessible lot (MPR) open for visitors.

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: Sunday Connection for K-8 follows the Time for Children upstairs in the Galilee Room. (Sign your child in at the back of the sanctuary before worship, then pick them up in the Galilee Room at 11:30 a.m.)

GRADES 6 - 12: Lifeboats and Compass will meet for fellowship after worship until 1:00 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.

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

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 02/18

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Third Sunday Lunch
11:30 a.m. Lifeboats and Compass Fellowship Meeting (until 1pm)
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

MONDAY 02/19

- 2:30 p.m. Beacon Leadership Team

TUESDAY 02/20

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 02/21

- 10:30 a.m. Peaceful Presence
11:30 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY 02/25

- 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

Continuing the *Strangers and Sojourners* series for Lent, Pastor Chris preaches that hospitality to others is hospitality to God. Music will be sung with the Central Choir, led by instrumentalist Paul Damico-Carper.

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

Christie Rachelle,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105

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