



SEASON OF LENT

## Strangers and Sojourners: Welcoming God

FEBRUARY 25, 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 Jim Wheeler.**

## 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](http://www.centralforgood.org/photography).

## LICENSE

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## 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](http://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 Remember* (by Paul Damico-Carper)

### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from Hebrews 4

Mary Miller

One: Since Jesus has passed through the heavens, let us hold fast to our confession.

All: **For through Jesus, God knows the fullness of our humanity.**

One: Therefore let us approach God's abundant grace with boldness.

All: **So that we may receive mercy and grace to help in our times of need.**

### ✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, your call to compassion is so great that through Jesus, you even receive compassion. You dwell with and through those who are in need, identifying with the marginalized of the earth. As we serve one another out of the abundance you have provided, may we understand that it is also you who we serve, you who we care for, you who we love. May we recognize your holy face in those to whom we have compassion.

### ✦ HYMN

*Here in This Place*

Hymn #401

### 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 are with and alongside those who suffer, those who are in need, those who mourn. Forgive us when we pass you by, day after day, intersection after intersection, refusing to see your face. Help us instead to**

see you in acts of compassion. May our hearts break for the heartbreak of the world, and may our broken hearts lead us to creativity, service, and acts of radical hospitality in our lives and in our communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## 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

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 - Hebrews 13:1-3

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

Central Choir, Led by Paul Damico-Carper

*All Are Welcome* (by Marty Haugen)

## SCRIPTURE READING - Genesis 18:1-14

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON - Strangers and Sojourners: Welcoming God

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

## We Respond to God's Gifts

## ✦ HYMN

*God Welcomes All*

Hymn #399

## 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](http://www.centralforgood.org/give) or submit to the office during normal office hours.*

## OFFERTORY

*May This Church Be Like a Tree* (by Pablo Sosa, tr. Andrew Donaldson)

## ✦ SONG OF DEDICATION

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Hymn#223 verse 4

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.

## ✦ 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

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Hymn #306

## ✦ 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

*Niel Gow's Lament* (by Niel Gow)

Paul Damico-Carper

# Announcements

View our church calendar and share upcoming events at [www.centralforgood.org/calendar](http://www.centralforgood.org/calendar).

## Welcome Paul Damico-Carper

Paul Damico-Carper is a church musician, worship leader, tech director, composer, and multi-instrumentalist. He recently served as Assistant Director of Music and Worship Production at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, where he developed a worship production ministry in response to the Covid pandemic. In 2020, he received the Brugh Emerging Leader Award from the Institute of Liturgical Studies (Valparaiso University). He serves on the editorial board of CrossAccent (the journal of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) and has been a core member of the worship band at ELCA Churchwide assemblies for the last decade.

Paul holds degrees in music (B.A., Valparaiso University) and theology (M.A.T.S., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago). He loves spending time with his family, cooking, playing fiddle with friends, and walking the family's dogs along the banks of the Mississippi River.

## Adult Faith Formation Class Rescheduled

The March 3 Faith Formation discussion with Pastor Chris on Gender Equality has been rescheduled for March 17 at noon. Attendees can take part in Third Sunday Lunch, then head to the upstairs meeting lounge.

## 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](http://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.

## Discussion on Interfaith Action's Proposed Partnership

As Central discerns a call to partner with Interfaith Action to open our doors to a program to help migrants to Minnesota, we want to hear from YOU. On March 3rd, after the congregational meeting, join us in the Friendship Room to discuss what this partnership might mean for Central and the ministry we do together. Extending Jesus' radical hospitality often means changing our ways and expectations, so we want to hear what you're excited for and what concerns you may have. In the meantime, please feel free to share your questions with Pastor Chris.

## Women's Networking Group

The Women of Central are gathering again for their networking group on Monday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. This month, it is just a walk across the street to the Celeste of St. Paul Hotel + Bar. You can park at the Central MPR lot and we will see you there!

If you have not yet shared in a networking group, then we invite you! Open to all women of Central, this event brings together those of a wide range of ages, interests, backgrounds, and more, offering a wonderful way to build personal connections and share experiences with others in our community.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!

### 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.)

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](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).

# This Week at Central

## SUNDAY 02/25

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
11:45 a.m. Hunger Initiative Task Force  
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

## MARCH 02/26

- 5:30 p.m. Women's Networking Group  
(Celeste Hotel)

## TUESDAY 02/27

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

## WEDNESDAY 02/28

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

## SUNDAY 03/03

- 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  
11:30 a.m. Lifeboats and Compass  
Youth 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 on strangers identifying God rightly. Music will be sung by Central Choir, led by Eric Bartlett, with guest soloist Clara Osowski, and pianist Alex Woods.

## The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

### PASTOR

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### ADMINISTRATION

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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