

Moses at the Manger



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10, 2023



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 Jacquie Young.**

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.

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

Ars Nova Brass Quintet

E la Don Don (arr. Koch)

Sweet Songs of Christmas (by Dedrick)

Go Tell It On the Mountain (arr. Henderson)

Away in a Manger (by Kirpatrick, Murray, arr. March)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - From Isaiah 40

One: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All: **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;**

One: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,

All: **For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: As we wait patiently for the coming of our Lord, let us turn to God in the sure hope of salvation.

All: **Lord, we continue through this season of Advent in joyful anticipation that you are doing something new in our midst. Yet we find that the same old stories and patterns mark our lives and the world. We succumb to patterns of selfishness and hurt that are far too prevalent. In your mercy, help us to see your new creation in our midst. Help us to imagine the joyful world you are bringing about. Help us to create that world alongside you. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

✦ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: God came and is coming into the world not for condemnation, but for new life written in God's love. Therefore with joy and expectation, we proclaim together:

All: **God's love has no end! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

✦ HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn #133, verses 1, 3, 4

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

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

All: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

One: This third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy. Joy is a hallmark of God's goodness, a sign of the presence of the Spirit amongst us.

All: **Joy is our response, even in the midst of a hurting world, to God's faithfulness to all creation, and a sign that points us towards a redemptive future.**

One: Joy marked the people of Israel as they escaped slavery and anticipated a new identity rooted in God's provision.

All: **Joy marked the birth of Jesus, as those who gathered imagined what God could again be doing to set people free.**

One: Joy is more than fleeting happiness. Joy takes root deep down in the soul. Joy sustains us through hard times and enlightens our senses towards the good. Often the most profound joy is that of a people who have suffered and yet retain an unquenchable hope in what God is yet doing.

All: **God, as we seek joy, remind us that joy is both a gift and a discipline. Give us the gift of joy through your Spirit that helps us see what is truly joyful. Cultivate within us the practices that keep us joyful and working towards a world marked by joy in all things. Amen.**

We Listen for God's Voice

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

Little Drummer Boy / Pat-a-Pan (arr. Udell)

Ars Nova Brass Quintet

REFLECTION - "Twice Upon a Time"

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen



Moses at the Manger

Written and Directed by Jeff Jones

PRELUDE MUSIC

SCENE 1: The Auditions Begin

SCENE 2: Mother of Moses

SCENE 3: Jethro

SCENE 4: The Burning Bush

SCENE 5: Pharoah

SCENE 6: Moses

SCENE 7: The Frogs

MUSIC: *Noel, Noel (A Sheep Lullaby)* (by Michael Burkhardt)

SCENE 8: Pillar of Fire

MUSIC: *This Star* (by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)

SCENE 9: Miriam and Aaron

MUSIC: *Miriam's Song* (by Trish Bruxvoort Colligan)

SCENE 10: False Ending

✦ **CAROL:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing - Hymn #119*

SCENE 11: The Real Ending

EPILOGUE

CAROL: Joy to the World - 1 verse

(Please remain seated)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

✠ 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

As Lately We Watched (arr. Koch)

Ars Nova Brass Quintet

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 Giving Via Credit Card
Text givecentral to 73256.



Bank Account Transfer
Set up one time or recurring online

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

Announcements

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

Children's Christmas Pageant

Cast and Crew

Director #1..... Isabelle
Director #2.....Gavia
Director #3..... Lukas
Stage Manager #1 Eliana
Stage Manager #2..... Abby
Frog #1: Norma
Frog #2Rowan
Frog #3 Aiden
Frog #4 Thessaly
Angels Abe, Caroline, Celia,
.....Ellie, Lila, Tyler
Shepherds Erin, Joanna, Mila, Simon
Manger Folks..... Addie, Jahmir,
..... Jayden, Sophie
Mother/Mary..... Thea
Jethro/Joseph Trygve
Burning Bush/Angel Lena
Moses/Shepherd Cora
Pillar of Fire/StarCasey
Miriam/Wise Person Nora
Aaron/Wise PersonJohn
Pharaoh/Herod..... Thomas
Senior Scripture Readers.....Cameron, Ian,
..... Natalie
Junior Scripture ReadersAbe, Simon, Tyler
Baby Cows Eleanor, Georgia, James,
.....Jyri, Quentin

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Writing and Direction - Jeff Jones
- Props - Erika Kelly-Kennedy, Anne Kivel, Jackie Klaehn
- Costumes - Marie Prottengeier Smith
- Children and Nursery Staff - Megan Beese, Jess Garner, Maria Stokes, and Laura Walls
- Music Leadership - Jessica Clifton
- Audio / Visuals - Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker
- Set - Cora, Mark Flinner, Peter Evarts
- Photography - Christie Rachelle
- Plus, all of the parents who helped to rehearse lines and assist kids in finding their way.

Welcome Ars Nova Brass Quintet

Thank you to our Artist-in-Residence, the Ars Nova Brass Quintet, for their contribution to today's service. Ars Nova engages and entertains its audience by presenting an innovative perspective: Brass instruments are not just for marches and fanfares. Their repertoire includes music of the Renaissance, Classical and Romantic periods, both religious and secular, as well as gospel, jazz and ragtime.

To learn more about Ars Nova, visit their website at <https://anbq.wordpress.com>.

Lessons and Carols Next Sunday

Central's special tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols returns next Sunday (December 17) at 10:30 a.m. Worship will feature a full roster of music from Central Choir, Alex Woods on piano, Melanie Ohnstad on organ, soloist Tonia Hughes Kendrick, our Handbell Ensemble, Central's Chamber Ensemble with guest instrumentalists, and youth soloists.

This is a wonderful morning of music and message, and we invite you to hear again the beauty of the season.

Christmas Services at Central

Share in one of two worship services this Christmas Eve.

4:00 PM - Worship features a vocal quartet with our section leaders and organist Melanie Ohnstad. Children will be invited to play a special role during the scripture reading.

10:30 PM - Candlelight worship features Central Choir and Melanie Ohnstad on organ. This service will not be live-streamed due to limited light in the sanctuary.

Note: There is no morning worship this day and there will be no nursery care for our evening services.

Giving Tree Gifts Due Today

If you have selected a gift tag from the Giving Tree, your wrapped present with the detailed gift tag is due TODAY. Thank you for your generosity and for making the Christmas season special for these families. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Kelly Ishizuka.

Children & Youth Christmas Parties Next Sunday

Those in Sunday Connection (kids up through Grade 5) will enjoy games, treats and fun upstairs on Sunday, December 17 during worship 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Youth in grades 6 - 12 will gather at the church on Sunday, December 17 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., enjoying a movie, games, food, and a gift exchange. Youth are asked to bring a \$5—\$10 gift for the gift exchange and beverages to share.

Will You Help?

Christmas is a busy time at Central and we still need volunteers to serve in these roles:

- **Children's Christmas Party Helpers** next Sunday, Dec. 17 during worship. Please speak to Jennifer Anderson TODAY if you can help.
- **Sanctuary Pew Patrol:** Stock our pews with special Christmas offering envelopes and pens. Please talk to Anna in the office to schedule a time.
- **Christmas Eve Ushers:** Welcome guests to the 4:00 or 10:30 pm worship service, distribute bulletins, and assist with receiving the offering. Sign up at: www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this season special already, including decorators, fellowship servers, brunch cooks, worship leaders, and many more. We appreciate your efforts creating a vibrant and welcoming community at Central!

A Criminal Justice Conversation

The Anti-Racism Task Force expands on the December Faith Formation topic of Criminal Justice this month with a guest who has insight into the Minnesota prison system. The Rev. MJ Voytek will join us for lunch and conversation on December 17 at 11:45 a.m.

Rev. MJ Voytek (they/them) is a graduate of both Macalester College and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. They have experience working in pastoral care and mental health settings, including 2.5 years as the Chaplain at Minnesota's only women's prison. Currently a minister-at-large after the end of that call, MJ brings a deepened knowledge of the law enforcement system's strengths and biases both to their visit to Central and to their work next summer as a commissioner from the Twin Cities to the denomination's General Assembly.

Bring your curiosity and join the Anti-Racism Task Force with Rev. Voytek for this interesting and informative conversation!

Offering Envelopes

Would you like to get a box of weekly offering envelopes to use for your financial contributions to Central? Central distributes (upon request) a boxed set of giving envelopes that are dated for each Sunday of the year, including several special offerings. Please contact the church office at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 to order a box or cancel your order for next year. If you received a box this year, and want to continue again, you need not do anything.

STAY CONNECTED!



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EMAIL QUESTIONS ANYTIME
office@centralforgood.org



VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer

Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias



Orders are due by Sunday, December 17.

This December, we continue with a Central tradition to decorate the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), complete the following and return with payment to the office or the offering plate.

Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our Deck the Halls event on December 2. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletin, please submit donations by December 17.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

If you are purchasing in honor or memory of someone, please list their name(s): _____

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small Poinsettia	\$11.00		
Large Poinsettia	\$20.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$21.00		
Evergreen Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____



Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church.

Return orders to the Sunday worship offering plate or to the office.

A WEARY WORLD

Rejoices

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

with special guests Tonia Hughes Kendrick and Melanie Ohnstad



Sunday, December 17

10:30 AM

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 12/10 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship with
Children & Youth Pageant
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:45 a.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

MONDAY 12/11

- 6:00 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Meeting

TUESDAY 12/12

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 12/13

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble
7:15 p.m. Lessons & Carols
Dress Rehearsal

SUNDAY 12/17 - 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship Featuring
Nine Lessons and Carols
10:30 a.m. Sunday Connection Christmas
Party (kids through grade 5)
11:30 a.m. Third Sunday Lunch
11:45 a.m. Anti-Racism Discussion on
Criminal Justice
5:00 p.m. Lifeboats & Compass
Christmas Party (Grades 6-12)
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Our fourth Sunday of Advent features Nine Lessons and Carols, with a full roster of music from Central Choir, Alex Woods on piano, Melanie Ohnstad on organ, soloist Tonia Hughes Kendrick, Central's Chamber Ensemble with guest instrumentalists, youth soloists, and our Handbell Ensemble.

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