

A WEARY WORLD

Rejoices

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17, 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 Margorie Elliott.**

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

PRELUDE

Joyeux Noel! (By Camil Van Hulse)

Still, Still, Still (Arr. Cathy Moglebust)

Où S'en Vont Ces Gais Berger (By Claude Balbastre)

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 - PEACE

Central Audio-Visual Team

One: This fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace.

Peace is the hallmark of a life reconciled to itself, to others, and to God.

All: **May we experience a deep-seated peace that abides through life's changes and challenges.**

One: Peace is not the mere absence of conflict, but a sign of the presence of true justice between people and peoples.

All: **May all the world experience a lasting peace, wars ceasing to the ends of the earth.**

One: The peace we find is not as the world gives, but as Christ gives to us. Although Jesus was born into a violent and oppressive world, he lived and preached a peace that set the oppressed free and restored people and communities to health and wholeness. He lived God's shalom, a peace that is complete and lasting.

(Lighting of the Advent Candles)

One: Let us pray.

All: God, show us the way of peace. Show us the way when it requires self-giving, when it requires empathy, when it requires compassion, when it requires truth-telling, and when it requires love. May our lives reflect the peace you are bringing into the world.

✦ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymn #140

Once in Royal David's City

Verse 1: Johnny, soloist

Verse 2-4: All

FIRST LESSON - Genesis 2:1-9

Read by Mel Leach

FIRST CAROL

Shanta Hejmadi, soloist

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree (by Elizabeth Poston)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

I'm weary with my former toil -
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

With great delight I'll make my stay,
There's none shall fright my soul away;
Among the sons of men I see
There's none like Christ the Appletree.

I'll sit and eat this fruit divine,
It cheers my heart like spirit'al wine;
And now this fruit is sweet to me,
That grows on Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.

SECOND LESSON - Isaiah 40:3-5

Read by Dr. Ernest Lloyd

SECOND CAROL

People Look East (arr. Drew Collins)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

THIRD LESSON - *The Incarnate Alleluia* by Susan Palo Cherwien

Read by Maureen Smith

THIRD CAROL

If In Your Heart (by Ana Hernández)

If in your heart you make a manger for his birth
Then God will once again become a child on earth.

FOURTH LESSON - Luke 2:1-7

Read by Barbara Hein

FOURTH CAROL

O, Holy Night (by Adolphe Adam)

Tonia Hughes Kendrick, soloist

FIFTH LESSON - Luke 2:8-14

Read by Peter Knapp

✦ FIFTH CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High (arr. Charles Peery)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

SIXTH LESSON - Luke 2:15-20

Read by Leah Van der Sluis

SIXTH CAROL

Star Carol (by John Rutter)

Sing this night (for a boy is born in Bethlehem)
Christ our Lord (in a lowly manger lies)
Bring your gifts (come and worship at his cradle)
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night
Follow me joyfully
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

Angels bright (come from heaven's highest glory)
Bear the news (with its message of good cheer)
Sing, rejoice (for a King is come to save us)
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary

Let us pay our homage at the manger
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night
Christ is come, bringing promises of salvation
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

SEVENTH LESSON - *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

Read by Eliana

SEVENTH CAROL

Children, Go Where I Send Thee (African-American Spiritual)

Children, go where I send thee.
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one,
one is the little bitty baby ...
was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

EIGHTH LESSON - *Wise Women Also Came* by Jan Richardson

Read by Kiera Faye

EIGHTH CAROL AND OFFERTORY

We Three Kings (arr. Jeremy Bankson and Tom Trenney)

ALL
We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

LOWER VOICES

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [*Refrain - all*]

HIGHER VOICES

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [*Refrain - all*]

CHOIR ALONE

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [*Refrain*]

ALL

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [*Refrain - all*]

*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.*

NINTH LESSON - John 1:1-4

Read by Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

NINTH CAROL

All is Well (by Michael W. Smith)

All is well all is well
Heaven and Earth rejoice
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of Love's light
Sing Alleluia

All is well all is well
Let there be peace on earth
Christ is come, go and tell
That He is in the manger
Sing Alleluia

All is well all is well
Lift up your voices and sing
Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior

✦ **BENEDICTION**

✦ **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #119

✦ **SENDING**

One: God is out there.

All: **Let us go forth!**

POSTLUDE

Carillon On Forest Green (arr. C. Peery)

In Children & Youth Ministry Today

CHILDREN AGE BIRTH – 6: Our professionally staffed nursery offers fun toys and good friends. Open 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. today, we ask that you sign your child in and out upstairs.

GRADES 1 & UP: Sunday Connection will hold its Christmas Party during the worship hour. Kids are invited upstairs before worship starts for games, treats, and fun until worship ends.

GRADES 6 – 12: Lifeboats and Compass will share their Christmas Party from 5 - 8:00 p.m. today, sharing a movie, games, food, and gifts. Youth are asked to bring a \$5 - \$10 gift for the gift exchange and drink to share.

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.

MUSICIANS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE CHOIR

Eric Bartlett*
Leslie Bartlett
Kate Beckman
Lou Bender
Abbie Betinis*
Phyllis Brashler
Ramon Bridges
Miranda Brown
Christie Burke
Jessica Clifton
Ashlee Danelius
Emily Davidson
Catherine Dittberner Lloyd
David Erickson
Natalie Fetzek
Doug Fink
Ruthie Fink
Mark Flinner
Wendy Flinner
Barb Fonkert
Deborah Fonkert
Irene Ghatt
Jane Gulsvig
Paul Gulsvig
Allison Hawley March
Shanta Hejmadi*
Ethan Hiedeman
Lucy Hiestand
Marge Higgins
Jym Hubbell
Nathan Hubbell
Florette Hujanen

Heidi Jernstedt
Dave Kansas
Carmell Kenley
Scott Klaehn
Jan Kolles
Elizabeth Lacy
Karen Lee
Ann Linde
Penny Mixhau
J. David Moore
Marie Prottengeier-Smith
Louis Quast
Cris Ross
Susan Rostkoski
John Rudberg
Lindsay Samelian
Lise Schmidt
John Severson
Anthony Sims
Bruce Smith
Amy Stomberg
Kristin Thompson
Adam Van der Sluis*
Kirsten Van Rybroek
Charles Weed
Casey Wells

** Indicates Section Leader*

YOUTH SINGERS

Cora
Eliana
Johnny
Lena

FEATURED SOLOIST

Tonia Hughes Kendrick

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Alex Woods, piano
Melanie Ohnstad, organ
Hannah Peterson, flute
Lucinda Jesson, clarinet
Isabelle, violin
Emilia Mettenbrink, violin
Celia Sieckert, cello
Mark Flinner, cello
Ehrich Koch, trumpet
Miriam Dennis, trumpet
Melissa Kalal, French horn
Brent Rundquist, trombone
Abbie Betinis, baritone
Dean Shea, tuba
Wendy Flinner, keyboard
Gail Celio, percussion
Lucy Hiestand, percussion

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Margaret Cellete
Leslie Bartlett
Lucy Hiestand
Heidi Jernstedt
Gail Celio
Casey Wells

Announcements

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

Stay for Lunch Today!

Join us after worship in the lower level dining room for a delicious chef prepared meal as part of our Third Sunday Lunch tradition.

A donation of \$10 per adult is requested. However, all who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of the ability to donate. Vegetarian option available.

Like what you eat? Join us on Wednesdays from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for our Community Lunch, open to all!

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.)

There is no morning worship this day, nor nursery care for our evening services. However, the nursery will be open for parents who need to do a diaper change or take a wiggle break with their child.

A Criminal Justice Conversation

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

Rev. MJ Voytek is a graduate of Macalester College and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, with 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, 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 us for this interesting and informative conversation!

Calling all Children: Help Us Bring the Manger to Life!

Children of all ages (plus friends and grandchildren are welcome) who attend the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service are invited to participate in a living manger scene during worship as the scripture is read. They will receive a costume as they arrive with simple instructions on how to participate. (No need to rehearse or RSVP your spot!)

Central is You. Every day of the week, and especially Sundays, **we rely on one another to minister** through worship, education, fellowship, and more.

Following are a few ways we need you. (Simply sign up on our website at: www.centralforgood.org/volunteer)

PRAY

Support our children and youth by writing notes of encouragement, pray for them, and connect with them in church.

ASSIST IN WORSHIP

Serve during worship as a liturgist - leading prayers, reading scripture, and speaking from the pulpit (no prior public speaking experience necessary).

SERVE FELLOWSHIP

Prepare coffee and refreshments for the fellowship hour before church from 10 - 10:30 a.m., or serve after worship.

NURSERY CARE

Care and play with our youngest members of the Central community in the nursery during worship or other upcoming events.

USHER AND GREET

Welcome guests to worship, distribute bulletins, help with wayfinding, and assist with receiving the offering.

SUPPORT OUR LIVE STREAM

Help as a camera operator and editor for our worship video broadcast. Don't worry, training is provided!

We also **reach out into our community** in service, witnessing to God's generous love-without-walls. Here are a few ways you can join alongside:

HELP PREPARE LUNCH

Each Wednesday, volunteers work alongside Chef Barb Westman to prepare and serve a catered meal for guests from the surrounding community. Central Closet also distributes clothing at no cost to our guests.

SERVE HOUSING NEEDS

Along with our other service and justice projects, our Beacon Interfaith Housing team works to advocate and provide housing for low-income people around the metro area.

WORK FOR ANTI-RACISM

Our Anti-Racism Task Force resources the congregation and our community to advocate for justice and do the hard work of turning away from systemic racism.

If you have a musical itch, explore one of our many music ensembles. Enjoy it as an audience or **share your talents** with others in worship or other events.

CENTRAL CHOIR

This SATB adult choir sings in worship weekly from September – May. While reading music isn't required, this choir moves quickly, learns a lot of repertoire, and throughout the year sings some challenging music, often highlighting the work of local composers! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

This is an ensemble for adults and high school youth with music-reading experience. This group experiments with sounds and timbres, playing an interesting bell repertoire. Come experiment with us when rehearsals resume as needed Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Open to adults and youth (grade 8 and up) who have played traditional band/orchestra instruments for at least three years. We rehearse on Sundays as necessary at 11:45 a.m. for about 30 minutes and play in worship every-other-month or so.

CABARET

This year Central will again create a fun, semi-staged musical production featuring our children, choir, and chamber ensemble! This intergenerational event welcomes singers, musicians, and support 'backstage' in production design. Show announcement coming soon!

YOUTH PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

At various times, children and youth are invited to share in percussion ensembles in worship, with an emphasis on discovering unique sounds.

If you are interested in being a part of our music ministry or one of our ensembles, please reach out to Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music & Youth Ministry at jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 103.

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

Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias



Orders are due **TODAY**.

We have continued the tradition of decorating the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund, please complete the following and return with payment to the office or the offering plate.

Christmas decorations have already begun to take their place around the church. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletin, please submit your donation by December 17.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

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

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QTY	TOTAL
SM Poinsettia	\$11.00		
LG Poinsettia	\$20.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$21.00		
Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUES _____

Checks should be made payable
to **Central Presbyterian Church**.

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

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.centraforgood.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@centraforgood.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

JANUARY 7 @ 11:30 AM

NEXT MONTH'S 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 on January 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.

Upcoming Calendar

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

TUESDAY 12/19

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

WEDNESDAY 12/20

- 10:30 a.m. Peaceful Presence
- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
- 7:15 p.m. Central Choir rehearsal

SUNDAY 12/24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Worship with Live Manger
- 7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting
- 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

MONDAY 12/25 - Christmas Day

The office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.

SUNDAY 12/31 - New Year's Eve

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

MONDAY 01/01 - New Year's Day

The office will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday.

We invite you to explore the Central community!

Do you have children and youth in your home?

- Check out our nursery for children age 0 - 5 open Sunday mornings.
- Engage those ages 1-5 in Sunday Connection during the worship hour.
- Grow faith formation in our children and youth groups which include Life Boats, Compass, and Spark!
- Encourage your teenager to dig deeper in a confirmation class.

Do you want to build new relationships and connections?

- Join our monthly Adult Formation class led by Pastor Chris.
- Learn and engage with others during Adult Bible Study.
- Meet others during our coffee and fellowship hour after worship.
- Share a fun meal in the city with the Women's Networking Group.
- Connect and craft with our monthly knitting group.
- Enjoy a catered lunchtime meal every Wednesday and Third Sunday.

Perhaps music is your passion?

- Join the Central Choir and uplift your voice in song during worship.
- Share your talents as an instrumentalist in our Chamber Ensemble.
- Try something new and join our Handbell Ensemble.
- Explore our youth choir, drum, and orchestra opportunities.
- Be a part of our intergenerational cabaret musical events!

Are you an advocate for volunteerism and social justice?

- Work with Central's Beacon team to create affordable housing.
- Connect with the Hunger Initiative to address food insecurities.
- Volunteer with our meals programs serving community lunches.
- Learn from the Anti-Racism Task Force on ways to drive change.
- Become a hospitality volunteer and welcome others into the church.

www.centralforgood.org