



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Host of Angels by Mike Moyers

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022 | 10:30am

Centered by our myriad and shared spiritual journeys toward God, we strengthen each other to practice love in action with hand and heart. We strive to be a nurturing center dedicated to demonstrating God's love to one another, our community and the world.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, a community where you belong. Whether you're with us for the first or thousandth time, whether you're in doubt or are devout, no matter who you are, what experience you bring, or what questions you have, you are welcome here. God welcomes us all.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the sound booth.

Bold signifies congregation participation.

*Rising as able

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Prelude

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss

Mallory Bernstein, piano

Welcome

Louise Westfall

Gathering Music

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Call to Worship

Celeste Habiger

Jesus says: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

And blessed is the church that serves with the love of God to eradicate systemic poverty.

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.

Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you when people revile you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

And blessed is the church that seeks by the power of the Spirit to dismantle structural racism.

Blessed are you, O God, and your Kin-dom forever.
Prepare the way of the Lord!

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

The Trimble and Clarke Families

What are you afraid of?

Not doing enough... not being enough... COVID and its variants...

Irrelevance... falling down... nightmares...

Being alone... climate change... our children having lock-down drills at school...

Financial worries... Forgetfulness... that important values are being lost...

Snakes... loss of purpose... conflict that never gets resolved...

What are you afraid of?

Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world.

May the growing light be a reminder that Christ is coming. From generation to generation, God is ever-faithful. God is here. Come, people of God,
Let us walk in the light of peace.

*Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess the times that fear overcomes love in our lives and church. You call us to share what we have and work together for the common good, yet economic disparity between rich and poor continues to grow. You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we avert our eyes to avoid seeing them. You call us to abundance and trust, yet we dwell in the wilderness of scarcity and anxiety. Forgive us, God of grace. Free us from fear that we may worship you faithfully, and love and serve one another whole-heartedly, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, take hold of the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to new life!

*Response

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

[Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.]

Go, tell it on the mountain,

**Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born! (2x)**

Celebrating Central’s Matthew 25 Ministries

Scripture Reading Molly Brown
Matthew 25:31-40 (p. 877)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

In Photographs

[Pictures are from service projects, mission partnerships, and missions trips during 2022]

In Witness

Restoring Connections Vie Thorgren
Memory Wollenweber

Women’s Homeless Initiative Francee Brown
Molly Brown

Central Visitation Program Brad Wood

Mission to Migrants Bright Mleta

Cuba Partnership Network Patrick Malone

Metro Caring Molly Brown

New Genesis Dave Ramsey

*Colorado Faith Communities
United Against Gun Violence,
and Guns to Gardens Initiative* Cheryl Fleetwood

*Carpenter’s Helpers
and Habitat for Humanity* Jon Dreux

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Morgan Brown
(Read by Caroline Brown)

La Puente Schuyler Daniel
Cooper Daniel
Lisa Daniels
Jagger Hanley
Charlie Bull
Reba Bull

Christmas Joy Offering Molly Brown

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory
African Noel Victor C. Johnson

***Doxology**
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God of compassion,
We offer these prayers to you.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory forever. Amen.**

***Hymn 79**
Light Dawns on a Weary World

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Felix Mendelssohn
Mallory Bernstein, piano

**Matthew 25 Vision and Invitation,
From the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

- 1) Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- 2) Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- 3) Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Please join the Mission Committee for Fellowship Hour in the Narthex. Mission Committee members are eager to tell you about their partners and the work and opportunities ahead in the coming year.

We are glad to be worshipping with you today

and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Central Presbyterian Church.

Free Sunday Parking | 8:00am – 1:30pm

Key Park is located across the street, with its main entrance on 16th Avenue.

Wells Fargo Center Parking Garage. You must get a parking validation ticket from an usher. When exiting garage insert your entry ticket into the exit column followed by the parking validation ticket.

Elderly and differently-abled individuals may park in the three staff parking spaces and the three handicapped parking spaces in front of the church.

Online Giving

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your offerings. www.centraldenver.com/give

Children in Worship

Central values having all generations worshipping together! All children are welcome in the worship space each and every Sunday. We enjoy and expect the joyful noises of children as they are a vibrant part of our faith community.

- Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 9:30-11:45am
- Worship activity bags are available from our staff in the front east box seats in the Sanctuary. Children may remain in that area throughout the service, where staff will be present.

Contact Molly Brown at molly@centraldenver.com with questions or to be added to the Children, Youth and Families mailing list (weekly emails with events and more).

Join Us for Worship Online

For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:30am: centraldenver.com/livestream. *Those without internet access are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 1.339.207.6673 at the time of the service.*

Weekly Email Newsletter

The best way to stay informed about activities at Central is to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, which goes out every Thursday at 6:30 pm. Sign up at: www.centraldenver.com/contact

Ways to Connect

Serendipity Women's Group

4th Thursdays, Starting in January

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, resumes monthly get-togethers in January. On fourth Thursdays, January through April, our meetings are at 1:30 pm. Friendship is our purpose, so please come!

Men's Night Out

December 1

Gather in participants' homes for conversation, food and drink, with Central men of all ages. Contact Larry Armstrong, (Larry@larrydarmstrong.com) for more details.

Theology on Tap

Thursdays, 7:00pm

We get together at local breweries to enjoy fellowship and discuss questions of faith. Please contact Pastor Louise to be added to the email list for locations.

Central Connections

Gatherings for couples and singles primarily in their 20's and 30's seeking connections in the city. Contact Pastor Louise to be added to the email list.

Equity Through Action: Now

Equity Through Action: Now (ETA:NOW) has been formed with the collaboration of members from People's Presbyterian Church. Those interested in signing up for ETA:NOW, may contact Marilyn Eaton (marilyneaton63@gmail.com) or Cindy Widdowson (solitaire601@comcast.net). We meet the second Thursday evening every other month, starting January 2023.

Women's Bible Study

2nd Thursdays, 10:00am

Via Zoom

All women are welcome. Please visit centraldenver.com for access to the Zoom Link.

Staff Directory

Pastor, Louise Westfall

louise@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6281

Director of Mission and Faith Formation, Molly Brown

molly@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6285

Music Director & Church Administrator, Charis Smith

charis@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6283

Multimedia Director & Administrative Assistant, Seth Rosenow

seth@centraldenver.com | 303.839.5500 ext. 284

Concert Manager, Glenn Ross

concerts@centraldenver.com

Facilities Manager, Jon Dreux

jon@centraldenver.com

Nursery Supervisor, Barb Brueggemann