



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Photo credit: Peter Fitzgerald, GNU Free Documentation License

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023 | 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

Be Glorified

Billy Funk; arr. Rolin R. Mains
Paul Falk piano

Welcome

Sally Leibbrandt

Gathering Music



Call to Worship (from Psalm 105, rev.)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on the Divine name, make known God's deeds among the people.

Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all the wonderful works God does.

Glory in the holy name; let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek the Lord and Divine strength; seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, and word God has uttered.

Worship God, all you generations of God's people!

*Hymn 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, the stunning beauty of the natural world as it turns from summer to autumn witnesses to your creative powers. Forgive us when we are too busy or distracted to notice, and our songs of praise are muted. The glory of human beings and our capacities to learn and love reflect your very being. Forgive us when we forget and even deny our Divine origin. Restore our relationship with You, O Love

that will not let us go, and with one another. We pray in your holy name.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, take hold of the good news:

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

*Response



The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Please share signs of peace with one another]

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! x3

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Time with Younger Church

Molly Brown

[Children may gather at the Table and take the light of Christ into the Bible Story Chapel to hear and engage with the Bible Story.]

Response

Jesus loves the little children,

all the children of the world.

They are promise and delight,

they are precious in God's sight,

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

What Human Work Can Make

Ruth Huff

Moments for Silence

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Green Prayer Request Cards and Welcome Cards are located in the pew racks. Please put them and your offering in the collection plates as they are passed.

To give via sms, please text "centraldenver" (no spaces) to 73256. You will be asked to enter your credit card info. Thank you for your gifts.

Offertory

Zion's Walls

Aaron Copland, arr Glenn Koponen
Paul Falk, piano

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



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 300

We Are One in the Spirit

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Praise to the Lord, The Almighty/
Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him*

arr. Phillip Keveren
Paul Falk, piano

We welcome the Rev. Ruth McCollum Huff to Central this morning. She was baptized in the Southern Baptist tradition, grew up at Montview Presbyterian Church, was married and ordained as a Deacon and Elder at Wellshire, ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament at Highland Park in North Denver, and worships currently at Calvary. She recently retired from many years as a corporate and securities paralegal, and was recently elected as the Vice Moderator of Denver Presbytery beginning in 2024.

Pastor Louise is in Asheville, North Carolina with colleagues in The Community, a group of Presbyterian Church (USA) pastors who meet for fellowship and support, and discussion of church trends and best practices. Please refer questions and pastoral concerns to Charis Smith, Church Administrator. Pastor Louise will return to the office on Thursday.

Faith Formation Classes:

Holy Currency – How our Faith Informs our Finances.

Central's on the Wisdom Path with the second of this two-part interactive, where we will explore our attitudes and our actions around money.

October 1 - Faithful Money Decisions in Our Corporate Life (Sherry and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Moore, Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, will engage in a dialogue)

Class will be held at 9:30am in the East Classroom upstairs. Please come ready to learn and to share.

Coming in October: Through Others' Eyes

In this three-part series, Ron LaRocque leads us on an examination of the relationship between Sarah and Hagar as narrated in Genesis. In an intentional break from more "traditional" understandings of the biblical text (patriarchal, heteronormative, colonialist), these stories will be considered through the lenses of Feminist (Phyllis Tribble), Womanist (Katy Taylor), and Queer (Ron) biblical interpreters to discover hidden horrors and treasures.

JOIN US FOR CHOIR

Wednesdays, 7:00pm– 8:30pm

All are welcome—all ages, all stages or musical knowledge and ability. If you like to sing, you belong!

Central will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering on Sunday, October 1 – World Communion Sunday. This Special Offering supports peacemaking and reconciliation ministries locally, nationally, and internationally. Central retains 25% of the offering for local efforts; this portion will go to Journey with Migrants, one of Central's mission partnerships. Our goal is \$1800.

Welcoming work requested each Sunday:

1-2 front door greeters and 1-2 fellowship time hosts. Please contact Tom Clarke tarts2020@gmail.com.

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

The deadline for copy for the bulletin and the eVoice is 10am on Tuesday morning. Any submissions after this deadline will be featured in the following week's publication.



Ways to Connect

Serendipity Women's Group

September 28 at 6:30pm

Sally Leibbrandt hosts Serendipity September 28 at her home in Centennial, 6:30-8:30pm. If the idea of an informal group welcoming women of all ages for conversation and friendship-building appeals to you, please join us! RSVP at leibbrandt4@yahoo.com or 303.641.7304. We are looking for a volunteer to host October 26, our last meeting of the year. Contact Carol Farnsworth, carol.farnsworth@gmail.com or 720.838.5901.

Men's Night Out

September 28 at 6:30pm

Gather in participants' homes for conversation, food and drink, with Central men of all ages. Chuck Stevenson will host this month; please bring a dish to share. RSVP or questions to Chuck: cesteve123@gmail.com

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.

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 & Faith Formation, Molly Brown

molly@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6285

Music Director & Church Administrator, Charis Smith

charis@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6283

Facilities Manager, Jon Dreux

jon@centraldenver.com

Concert Manager, Glenn Ross

concerts@centraldenver.com

Digital Production Manager, Aaron Black