



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



River of Love – Artistic Inspiration Studios

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024 | 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

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Albert L. Peace; arr. Cindy Berry
Paul Falk, piano

Welcome

Louise Westfall

Gathering Music



God be the love to search and keep me, God, be the prayer to
move my voice; God be the strength to now up-hold me;
O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Call to Worship (from *A Celtic Psalter*)

Jennifer Gilroy

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

You are above us, O God, you are within.

You are in all things, yet contained by no thing.

Teach us to seek you in all that has life

That we may see you as the Light of life.

Teach us to search for you in our own depths

That we may find you in every living soul.

*Hymn 297

In Christ Called to Baptize

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you call us to demonstrate your love and we say yes. However, we acknowledge that we have much to learn about your love for us and all people. How does it keep us from fear? How can we love you more fully? How can we love our neighbors better? How can we experience your love at the depths of our beings? Come to us, Holy One, that amid suffering and brokenness within and all around

us, we may know the love that restores life, reconciles people, and births hope for the living of these days.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, take hold of the good news:

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

*Response



All those who are of tender heart, for -
giving others take your part, sing God's prai-ses, Al-le - lu-ia!
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears, so
ev-en in the midst of tears, sing prai-ses, Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le -
lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

*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!**

The Sacrament of Baptism

We rejoice in the presentation of Hadley Elizabeth Courtney, daughter of Matt and Kim, born May 3, 2016. Elder Larry Armstrong, assisting.

Questions to the baptized, parents and congregation

*Affirmation of Faith

At the heart of Christian faith and the life of the Church are the two great commandments. Please rise as able, to affirm them together:

God is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Baptism

Welcome

It is my privilege to introduce you to this daughter of the Covenant, Hadley Elizabeth Courtney. See what love God has for us, that we should be called the children of God . . . and we are!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's Church, and into this congregation's life and mission.

Hymn 488 (seated)

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

Scripture Reading

I John 4:7-21

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Because God First Loved Us

Louise Westfall

Moments for Silence

Witness

Adam Shore
Colorado Faith Communities United to
Prevent Gun Violence

Offering

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

Requiem in D Minor, K. 626, VI. Benedictus

W.A. Mozart

Elizabeth Mirandi, soprano, Leslie Soich, mezzo,
Terrence McKenzie, tenor, John Seesholtz, baritone
Paul Falk, piano

*Doxology

OLD HUNDRED

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;
praise Christ all crea - tures here be - low;
praise Ho - ly Spi - rit e - ver - more;
praise tri - une God whom we a - dore. A - men.

Prayers of the Church

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
God of compassion, **we offer our 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee with
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring arr. Phillip Keveren
Paul Falk, piano

-indicates a favorite hymn of a Central member

TODAY Faith Formation Class

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP IN THE EAST CLASSROOM

Central will host a presentation of an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) slideshow created by Colorado Ceasefire to help raise awareness. ERPOs help to reduce the daily loss of life due to firearm violence, including gun suicide, but the law is not widely understood. The presentation explains how ERPOs work, plus addresses myths and misunderstandings, and includes time for Q&A.

April 30th Lunch Making

Join the opportunity to prepare 50 sack lunches for St. Francis Outreach Center on Tuesday, April 30. We will gather at Central at 9 am in the nursery. Contact molly@centraldenver.com to participate.

Upcoming Faith Formation Classes

Sunday, May 5 at 11:45 am

Embodied Presence, Sacred Belonging - Alfredo Kemm will lead this class that focuses on living an open-hearted Christian path with space for interpersonal relationships, companion experiences, connections, and identity.

Sunday, May 12 at 11:45 am

Preserving Identity Through Life - Kristin Staudt will lead this class that explores maintaining one's sense of self and identity as we age.

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

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, meets Thursday, May 9th at the home of Celeste Habiger in Littleton, 6:30pm. RSVPs to rhabiger@gmail.com or 832.248.4101. April through November, we shift to evening meetings, 6:30-8:30pm. Join us for refreshments, conversation and friendship-building!

Men's Night Out

Gather in participants' homes for conversation, food and drink, with Central men of all ages. Please contact Larry Armstrong 303.875.7808 or Larry@larrydarmstrong.com for more information.

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

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