



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Raise Your Head, lewp studio

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 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

Woodland Peace (Opus 71, Number 4) Edvard Grieg
Joshua Sawicki, piano

Welcome

Louise Westfall

Gathering Music

*Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.*

Call to Worship

(adapted from a prayer by Jan Richardson)
Matt & Kim Courtney, Miles & Hadley

If we could see the journey whole we might never undertake it;

Might never dare the first step that propels us from the place we have known toward the place we know not.

God calls us to an Advent journey, opening a future yet unborn.

So let us go in stages, day after day, one step and then another, relying on more than a map.

To heed the signposts of prophet and dreamer, to follow the star that only appears in the night sky.

And God, please help us keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path.

*Hymn 79 vv 1-2

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Lighting the First Advent Candle: Hope

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As God has promised, in days to come. . . . the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more. [the first candle is lit]

[remain seated]

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are tired of waiting, burdened by the weight of watching. We are distracted by demands of the season and worried about many things. Come to us, Emmanuel! Let the light of this lone candle remind us that you are here. You are our hope, the quiet strength of our deepest longing. Grant us courage to bear this light together.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, take hold of the good news:

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

*Response

***Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.***

*The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Please share signs of peace with one another]

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

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

Sermon *Fear Not! (1): Focus*

Louise Westfall

Moments for Silence

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.

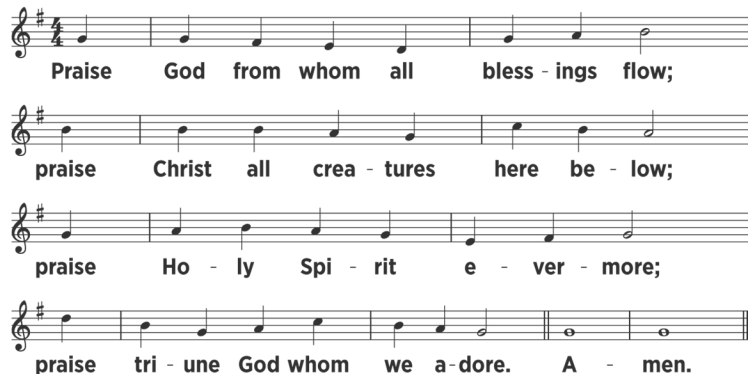
To give via sms, please text "centraldenver" (no spaces) to 73256. You will be asked to enter your credit card info. Thank you for your gifts.

Offertory

The First Noel trad. carol, arr. Richard Walters
Elizabeth Healy, baritone
Joshua Sawicki, piano

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



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.

The Feast of God's People

Invitation

Hymn 90 (remain seated while singing 3x)
Wait for the Lord

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
God of compassion, **we offer our prayers to you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The children will join us for Communion.

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn 79 v.3

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Thanks (Opus 62, Number 2)

Edvard Grieg
Joshua Sawicki, piano

Advent Labyrinth Walk

TODAY after Worship in Collier Chapel

Join Jennifer Landrum, Spiritual Director and Central Elder, for contemplation and reflection while walking Central's labyrinth.

Advent Food Boxes for Metro Caring

Please pick up an empty Food Box decorated for Advent. All boxes contain an Advent Calendar with nourishing foods and toiletries needed by Metro Caring. Return completed boxes on Sun, Dec 29 or Sun, Jan 5. Our goal is 50 completed boxes. Metro Caring will pick up and weigh our Advent offerings of nourishment and health.

Socks of Love for Heartbeat Denver Residents

Join in Central's annual tradition of stuffing 120 pairs of warm socks with helpful winter items like travel size deodorant, shaving cream, lotion, shampoo, toothbrush and paste; razors, winter beanies, dental floss, mints, and full bars of soap for our neighbors at Heartbeat Denver Working Men's Program. We will collect these items on Sundays, December 8th and 15th. Stay after Worship on December 15th to stuff the socks in assembly line style. Children will deliver these Socks of Love to Heartbeat Denver after the 4pm Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Joy Offering: Sunday, December 22nd

Central will receive this PCUSA Special Offering that supports our past, present, future church leaders and Presbyterian schools equipping communities of color.

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 in the Narthex.

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 6:30pm. 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

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: Serendipity's next gathering has been changed to December 5. Debbie Stevenson hosts at her home in Westminster. All women are welcome, 6:30-8:30pm, to enjoy friendship and refreshments. RSVPs to dwsteve123@gmail.com.

To volunteer to host in 2025, contact Carol Farnsworth, 720.838.5901 or carol.farnsworth@gmail.com. We meet on the second Thursday of the month.

Men's Night Out

Our last gathering of 2024 will be at the home of Bill Jones, Thursday evening, December 5th at 6:00pm. Bill will provide the Jones' great Chili; and Larry Armstrong will make his N'awlins Gumbo. Please let Bill know what you'd like to bring to complement the entrees: salad/dessert/bread/chips/beverage. We'll also be taking sign-ups for hosting in 2025. RSVP: Bill Jones, wjones6253@gmail.com or (303) 537-5528.

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

Director of Music & 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

Facilities Assistant, Joshua Ortega