



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Windsock Visitation - MMWIV by Br Mickey McGrath OSFS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 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

Cantilena on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

James Biery
David Vogels, organ

The Little Drummer Boy arr. Katherine Davis
Kirsten Schatz, Ahna Smith and Leslie Soich, trio

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

Paul Knupp and Claire Langley, Ever & Hyla

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

The seed is in the ground.

Now may we rest in hope while darkness does its work.

*Hymn 105

People, Look East

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle: Love

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 wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

God will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son and name him Emmanuel: God is with us.

[four candles are lit]

[remain seated]

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease; ill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are tired of waiting, and burdened by the concerns of this beautiful and broken world. Restore trust in the life-giving power of unconditional love, and help us show it boldly to one another, our community, and the world. Grant us grace to shine the light of compassion 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.

Time With Younger Church

Sherry Kenney

[Children are invited to join Storyteller Sherry Kenney at the Communion Table for Journey to Bethlehem, Pt. 3]

[remain seated]

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45

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

Sermon

Louise Westfall

Fear Not! (4): Expect Great Things

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

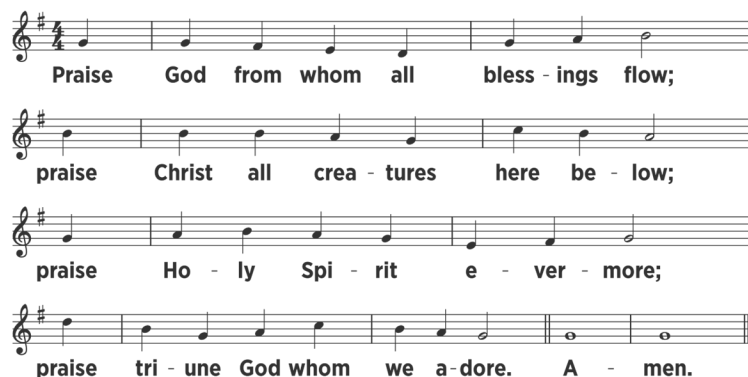
Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Michael John Trotta
The Chancel Choir

Colin Constance and Garrett Aman, percussion

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ all creatures 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 100

Canticle of the Turning

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Carillon on Joy to the World

Mary Beth Bennett
David Vogels, organ

TODAY

Christmas Joy Offering

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

Food Boxes for Metro Caring

Fill one up with the items outlined on the attached Advent calendar and return to Church no later than January 5. Help us reach our goal of 50 boxes for those served by Metro Caring.

Christmas Eve Services

Celebrate the season with Central by attending one of our two Christmas Eve services. At 4pm, a family friendly Candlelight service; at 7pm a string quartet prelude followed by a Candlelight Service at 7:30pm.



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

Serendipity, an informal group for all women, resumes monthly meetings in the New Year. Anne Bond hosts at her home January 11, 1:30-3:30. We meet on second Thursdays, January through April at 1:30 and May through November at 6:30.

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

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