



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Gospel Christmas,, Maren Devine

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 8, 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 Rex Gentium and O Emmanuel
from *O Antiphon Sequence*

Cecilia McDowall
David Vogels, organ

Personet Hodie

The Chancel Choir
Mallory Bernstein, 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

 Micaela Capelle & Nathan Eagan

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Hymn 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Lighting the Second Advent Candle: Peace

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.

[two candles are lit]

[remain seated]

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill 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 weight of violence. We pray for the peace of the whole world, yet find it difficult to bless our opponents or meet hostility with kindness. We're better at retribution than reparation. Come to us, Emmanuel! You are the unfailing light on our path, our peace, the quiet strength in our deepest longing. Grant us grace 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.***

Time With Younger Church

 Sherry Kenney

[Children are invited to join Storyteller Sherry Kenney at the Communion Table for *Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem.*]

[remain seated]

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars
go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting
light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in
thee tonight.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

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

Sermon

Louise Westfall

Fear Not! (2): Smooth Out Rough Places

Moments for Silence

Prayers for Peace: Gun Violence Prevention

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

Away In A Manger

arr. Mack Wilberg
The Chancel Choir
Mallory Bernstein, 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 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 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

O Clavis David from O Antiphon Sequence

Cecilia McDowall
David Vogels, organ

Sign Christmas Cards in the Narthex

The Deacons invite you to sign Christmas cards for members who often are not able to attend the worship service. Cards will be available to sign in the Narthex December 1, 8 and 15. Cards and blooming plants will be available to deliver on December 15 or shortly after.

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, December 29 or Sunday, January 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.

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

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

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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